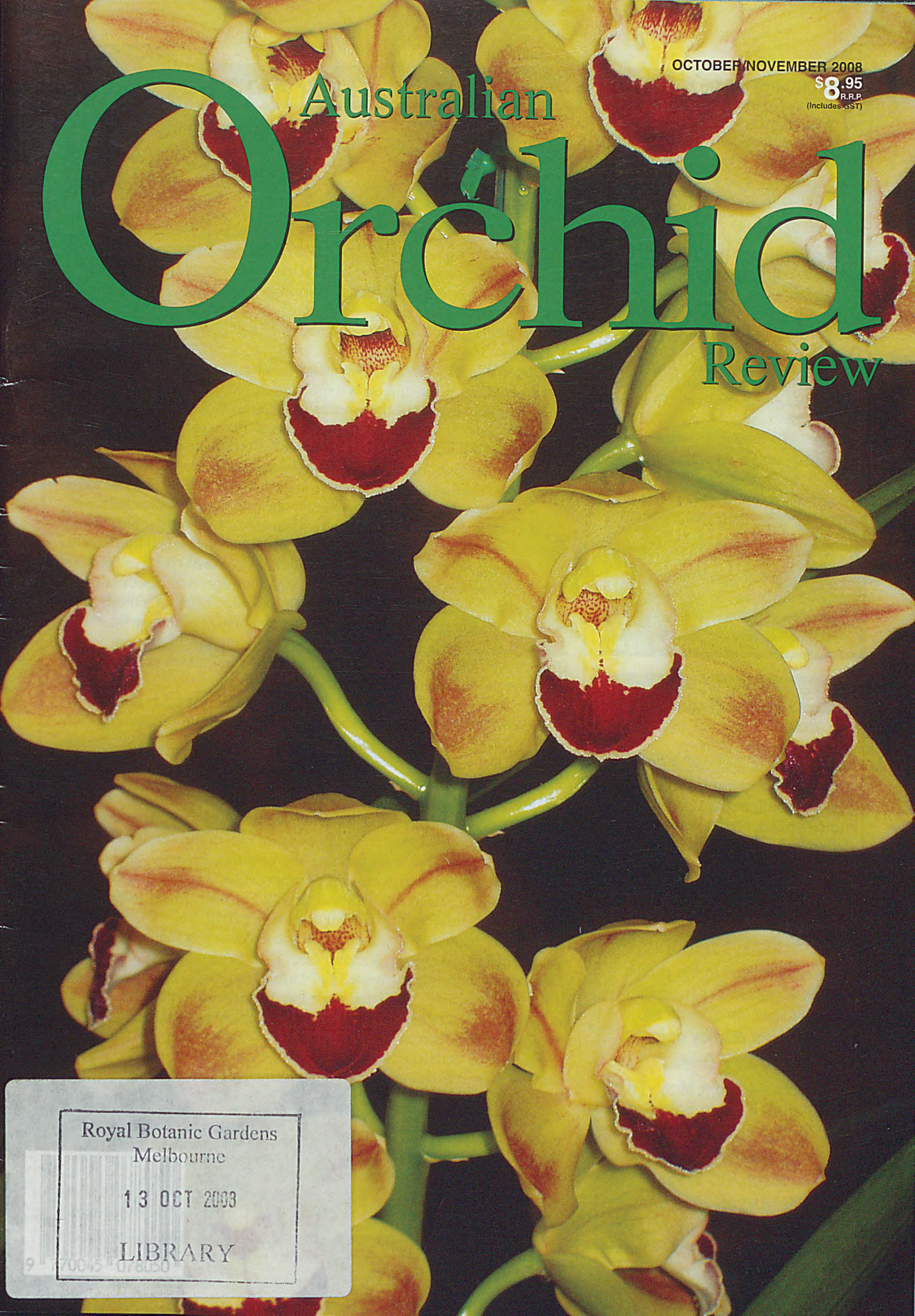


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From the Editor's Desk



This issue of the *Australian Orchid Review* is dedicated to the memory of the late Ronald Kerr (1912-2008), who passed away in August at the age of 96. Ron was Editor of the *AOR* from 1965 to 1987, and helped shape the magazine and put it on the world stage. He had a special love for Australian orchids and he helped promote this hobby for over half a century. A tribute to Ron and a brief synopsis of his life with orchids appears in this issue.

Brian Milligan talks about the history and rediscovery of the Mexican species *Laelia gouldiana*. This is a sister species to *Laelia anceps*, but lacks the variation in colour of that species. Both are easily grown subjects for frost-free climates and are popular in collections around Australia.

The second part of Rudolf Jenny's article on *Stanhopea* hybrids concludes in this issue. Some of the intergeneric hybrids are quite colourful and bizarre, and I am sure quite scarce in Australia at present. Rudolf's articles are always well researched and extremely thorough and authorative.

The combination of orchid shows with numerous vendors selling a wide range of plants has become popular and successful combination. In this issue Graeme Scott-Harden reviews "Orchids out West" that was held earlier this year. Along similar lines, Murray Aldridge talks about both the recent and upcoming Southern Orchid Spectacular, held at Cronulla. This event also features the Eric Marygold Trophy, which promotes interest in *Sarcochilus* hybrids. We also have a report on the highly successful Collector's Plant Fair, an event that shouldn't be missed that is held at Bilpin in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney.

Otochilus is a small genus of Asian species that is not familiar to most orchid enthusiasts. They are related to more popular and accessible genera such as *Coelogyne*, *Pleione* and *Dendrochilum*. I discuss one of the species, and a closely related *Pholidota* in this issue. Wally Suarez and Jim Cootes also introduce a new genus from the Subtribe *Eriinae*.

For those who plan to visit New Zealand over the next couple of years there are a couple of options with an orchid flavour. Murray and Jean Shergold of Easy Orchids are conducting an eleven day tour of the South Island in March 2009 incorporating the inspiring Ellerslie International Flower Show. See the back cover for further details. Looking further ahead, the next New Zealand International Orchid Extravaganza is to be held at Palmerston North (North Island) in September 2010.

The next Australian Orchid Conference is coming around quickly. This is to be held in Werribee, Victoria from 8-13 September 2009. This conference and show is being hosted by Maribyrnong Orchid Society with five other local societies affiliated with the Victorian Orchid Club. Further details and registration forms and rates can be obtained from Eric Wilde, the Conference Secretary via email: ef.wild@bigpond.com

Cymbidium enthusiasts are always well catered for within the pages of the *AOR*. Apart from the popular and informative "Cymbidiums Australia" section, we also have an illustrated report from Terry Davis on the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) recent Winter Show. The report for their highly successful Orchid Extravaganza held at Dural will appear in the next issue, along with a full report on the popular 2008 St Ives Orchid Fair. ■

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
davidpbanks@veritel.com.au

OUR COVER



Cymbidium Louie's Pride 'Smiley'

Another outstanding Australian-bred intermediate *Cymbidium*, a cross between *C.* Dag and *C.* Hazel Tyers made by Clive Halls of Mt Beenak Orchids and registered in 2001. From the CCA (NSW) Winter Show. Plant owned by Andy and Jessie Gatt. Photo: D.P. Banks



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The rediscovery of *Laelia gouldiana*

by Brian Milligan

A Mr. Theimer first found this beautiful orchid in Mexico in 1888 while collecting orchids for the British nurseryman Frederick Sander. Soon afterwards it was featured in Sander's *Reichenbachia* (four volumes of chromo-lithographic orchid prints), in which H. G. Reichenbach described it as a natural hybrid, possibly between *Laelia anceps* and *L. autumnalis*. Shortly afterwards Theimer died, without providing Sander with details of the spot where it grew.

Fortunately Theimer had given another of Sander's collectors, Louis Forget, a rough idea of where to find it – near St. Augustin. When, many years later (in 1910), Sander asked Forget to collect further supplies of this desirable orchid, Forget believed that all he had to do was to go to St. Augustin in the mountains above Vera Cruz (eastern Mexico). It was not as easy as he thought, because St. Augustin was the name of a church, not a town, and there were dozens of churches called St. Augustin!

During Forget's initial travels in Mexico he found many churches of St. Augustin but no likely site where *Laelia gouldiana* might have grown. As he rode further and higher into the mountains, Forget grew less and less optimistic, believing that no orchid could survive in such frosty regions. Eventually, however, he found the plants growing in a deep ravine near the village of Metzquititlan, which, like so many other villages, had a church of St. Augustin. Many of the local villagers grew *Laelia gouldiana* in their gardens, and used the flowers to decorate their church on Saints' days.

Sander had told Forget to collect 3000 plants, and probably received that many or more, because the following year in Sander's nursery at Bruges (Belgium) there were no less than 7000 flowers of *Laelia gouldiana* open on the same day in one glasshouse, just in time to be cut and sent to the Christmas flower markets in London, Paris and Brussels. *Laelia gouldiana* was particularly valuable as a cut flower in Europe because its flowers always opened a few days before Christmas (in the Northern Hemisphere), a time of peak demand. It is an easily grown, winter blooming species.

There appears to be quite little variation in colour or shape between clones of *Laelia gouldiana*. Also, albino forms are unknown. The argument as to whether the orchid was a natural hybrid or a species raged for many years. However, all efforts to make a man-made *Laelia* hybrid with flowers that closely resemble those collected in the wild have failed and it is generally accepted today that *Laelia gouldiana* is indeed a true species. Featured plants grown by Hills District Orchids, photos by David Banks.

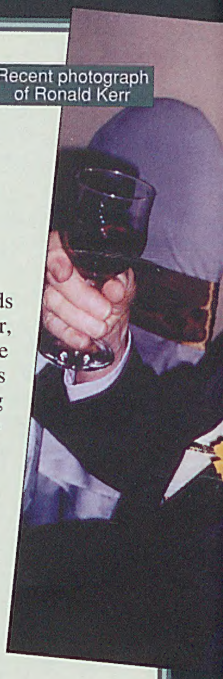
Brian Milligan
North Balwyn, Victoria



Ronald Kerr

(1st June 1912 – 5th August 2008)

His Life with Orchids



Recent photograph of Ronald Kerr

RON KERR spent over half a century devoted to the promotion and his enjoyment of the wonderful hobby and pastime of growing orchids. Sadly, most of Ron's contemporaries have predeceased him, with the exception of his friend in Essendon Victoria, Gerald McCraith – who founded the Australian Orchid Foundation – and is now in his 100th year. Most importantly, Ron was the Editor of the *Australian Orchid Review* from 1965 to 1987.

You may be wondering how somebody – less than half Ron's age – would be in a position to talk about his contribution to the Australian orchid fraternity. I had known Ron for over 30 years. I first met him in 1977 as a 12-year-old junior member of the Orchid Society of New South Wales. Like Ron, I had a very keen interest in Australian native orchids, something I am still most passionate about today. But this was at a time when our native orchids were deemed "unfashionable" and regarded as second-rate to the larger and more flamboyant exotic hybrids that were in vogue. Ron was always willing to share his experiences and vast knowledge of orchids with me as a youngster, whereas some of the other "older" growers were not so forthcoming or willing to share information with this enthusiastic young member.

This interest in our indigenous orchid species and their hybrids led to a band of enthusiasts to embark on establishing a specialist society devoted to such plants. To fill this niche, the Australasian Native Orchid Society (ANOS) was formed and founded in August 1963, with Ron a member of the Founding Committee, which met at his home at Hornsby. He remained a member for the rest of his life.



Orchids in Australia – the book Ron instigated, promoted and edited

In the early 1960s, Ron became a member of the Management Committee of the Orchid Society of New South Wales and was a continuous member until he retired at the end of 1987. He was also heavily involved with many suburban orchid societies, especially the Berowra Orchid Society. Under Ron's guidance the young orchid society staged a stunning display of purely native orchids at the 1962 Orchid Society of New South Wales Spring Show, a tradition that society (now with some competition) maintained for decades. In 1969, Ron was the Native Orchid Marshal for the hugely successful Sixth World Orchid Conference held in Sydney, which is still the only time such an event as been staged in Australia. This showcased to the world the biggest array of native orchids ever displayed.

It is somewhat ironic that Ron became the Editor for the *Australian Orchid Review* in March 1965 – ironic (as you will find out soon) in that it was the month and year that I was born. Before his editorship, Ron had contributed many articles that were published within the pages of the *AOR* as it was affectionately known. Most



of these were on his beloved native orchids. Ron was Editor of this iconic periodical for a record 22 years, from 1965 to 1987. During this time the magazine was published quarterly, and Ron meticulously spent many, many hours overseeing each issue. He also spent a lot of time corresponding with his various editorial associates and "orchid contacts" both in Australia and overseas. Ron even encouraged me to write articles for the *AOR*, and I had quite a number of papers published during his editorship. He even wrote a piece on me when I became President of Parramatta and District Orchid Society in 1985 at the age of 20 – which even today is some sort of record. He actually published one of my articles in what was to be his last issue as Editor. In many people's eyes Ron was not only the Editor of the *AOR*, he *was* the *AOR*.

Ron loved his involvement with the orchid scene, and was always looking for ways to further promote peoples awareness of orchids. To coincide with the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the *AOR* in 1986, Ron suggested the publication of a book, using a range of articles published over five decades be printed. Again, he offered to select and research the articles plus edit this mammoth task, and the book *Orchids in Australia* went from dream to reality. Even I rated a mention from Ron in this book 22 years ago, both in the text as well as providing a couple of photographs. This book is long out of print and today is a valuable collector's item. I truly value my copy, which was inscribed to me by Ron at the time of its launch.

Earlier, in 1984, Ron was part of a group that lobbied for a stamp issue to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Orchid Society of New South Wales. A numbered and limited release of pre-paid 27c envelopes were produced and released on 7th August 1984, featuring one of Ron's favourite native orchids – the Butterfly Orchid *(Sarcochilus australis)* as well as the Cooktown Orchid.

Ron was also a fully qualified Orchid Judge with the Australian Orchid Council. This saw Ron judging at orchid shows and conferences throughout Australia, in both the capitol cities and regional areas. Orchids at the shows would be assessed against similar plants in their classes before the Championship winners were voted on. Superior orchids would also be considered for quality Awards at both shows and at monthly meetings. In September 1975, Ron was the recipient of the very first award granted to an Australian native orchid hybrid (a Highly Commended Certificate) – the crystalline white and sweetly fragrant *Dendrobium* Bardo Rose 'Berowra' HCC/AOC-NSW. This plant was to later receive an Award of Merit from the American Orchid Society in 1987. Around that time Ron gave me a piece of this plant, which still flourishes for me today. In the 1988 bicentennial year, Ron's long term orchid friends – the McFarlanes from North Queensland - named *Dendrobium* Ron Kerr in his honour, officially registering it with the Royal Horticultural Society in London. Earlier this decade (and long overdue) Ron was inducted as a Life Member of the Orchid Society of New South Wales.

My father Graeme and I would often give Ron lifts to and/or from orchid meetings. Even in his twilight years, Ron was still fiercely but quietly independent. He would often spend days in the city at the Mitchell Library carrying out research before heading to the monthly orchid meeting – using Sydney's (often unreliable) public transport system. He liked doing his own thing.

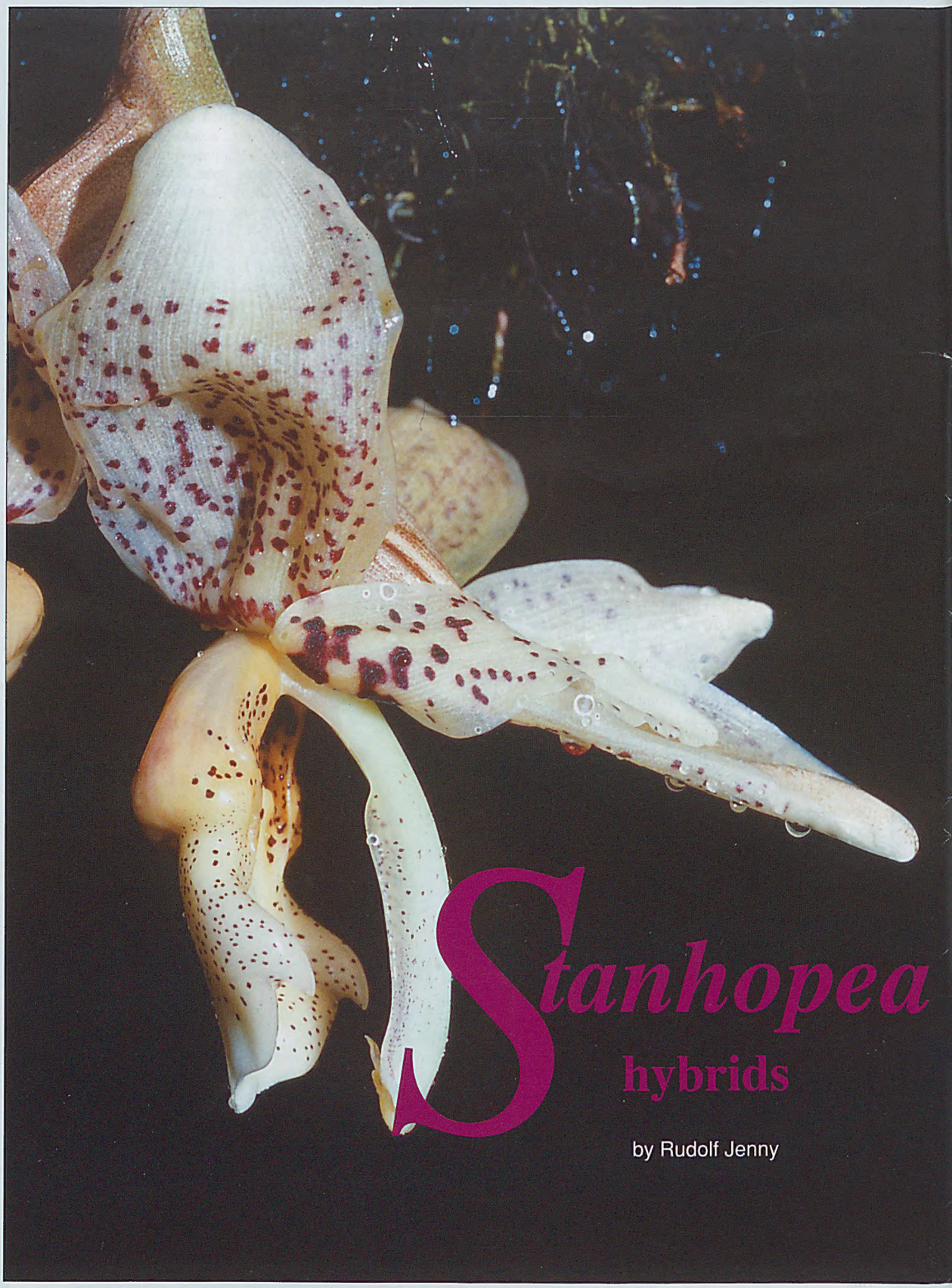
I mentioned earlier the irony of Ron's illustrious *AOR* career starting in March 1965. In our time of mutual association, little would we have realised that a generation or two later I would become Editor of the *AOR* – a position I was approached for and accepted in 1999, and continue in that role today. Things are very different today with the way the magazine is put together, now using the very latest digital technology. In Ron's day, he would wait weeks or even months to receive hand-written or typed articles and images. These would have to be re-typed and manually formatted and 35mm colour slides or black and white negatives would be the standard in photographs. Today, these items can be sent in seconds through cyberspace using the marvels of email and the Internet. Ron and I often spoke with passion about the magazine, and discussed how the times had dramatically changed. He often gave me valued advice regarding the production and content of the magazine.

I feel privileged to have known Ron Kerr and honoured to have been asked by his family to address his service that was held at Pine Grove Cemetery. I am proud to continue to carry the baton that Ron did with such esteem for over two decades. The orchid world is poorer with his passing at the grand age of 96; however Ron's legacy through his prolific writings will be appreciated and acknowledged by future generations of orchid enthusiasts. ■



Sketch of the youthful Ron Kerr

David Banks
Seven Hills, NSW
Email: davidpbanks@veritel.com.au



Stanhopea hybrids

by Rudolf Jenny

Stanhopea Mem. Paul Allen (*Stanhopea tigrina* x *Stanhopea ecornuta*). (Slide R.Jenny)



Stanhopea X *fowlieana* (*Stanhopea ecornuta* x *Stanhopea costaricensis*). (Slide R.Jenny)

Stanhopea Quirky Queen

This cross between *Stanhopea* Love Potion and *Stanhopea wardii* was registrated by PULLEY in 1998, as explained above, the probability of deformations or aberrant colouration in hybridising *Stanhopeas* is rather high. *Stanhopea* Love Potion is the cross between *Stanhopea connata* and *Stanhopea tigrina*, the influence of *Stanhopea connata* is clearly visible by the hypochile which is connate at its basis with the lip and by the short lip with its thick horns. The same is visible in other *connata*-hybrids like *Stanhopea* Dachart and *Stanhopea* April Fool. *Stanhopea connata* seems to be a parent which is responsible for rather compact flowers with a deep and round hypochile with very intensive colour.

Stanhopea Nirvana

Some clones of *Stanhopea martiana* are showing wide open flowers without the sepals and petals bent back, with this the flowers seems to big much bigger. By using such clones in hybridising this behaviour seems to be passed at least in parts to its hybrids. A good example is Doug PULLEY's *Stanhopea* Nirvana, a cross between *Stanhopea martiana* and *Stanhopea posada*. Another *martiana*-hybrid, *Stanhopea* Uli Paterny (*S. martiana* x *S. oculata*) seems to be more dominated by *Stanhopea oculata*. All hybrids with *Stanhopea martiana* are clearly recognisable by the typically elongated and sharply pointed horns on the mesochile.

Stanhopea Naked Lady

This cross, made and registrated by Doug PULLEY, is unifying two morphologically rather outstanding species, *Stanhopea pulla* and *Stanhopea reichenbachiana*. The average result is more interesting than beautiful, but some clones have beautiful bright white flowers with very dark margins on the lip. Both parents are very variable in its colouration, of *Stanhopea pulla* we know white, creamy, yellow and deep orange flowers with and without dark spots on the lip. *Stanhopea reichenbachiana* is normally bright white, but we know also very dense and intensively red spotted forms. The morphology of *Stanhopea* Naked Lady seems to be dominated by *Stanhopea pulla*, the flowers are much smaller than those of *Stanhopea reichenbachiana*.

Stanhopea Racine

Stanhopea Racine, crossed 1989 by Marcel LECOUFLE from *Stanhopea saccata* and *Stanhopea costaricensis* shows very clear the impact of the dominant *Stanhopea saccata*. Most hybrids with *Stanhopea saccata* seems to b very similar, probably with exception of *Stanhopea* Dachart. The later is the cross between *Stanhopea insignis* and *Stanhopea saccata* and is morphologically more dominated by *Stanhopea insignis*, this hybrid is a true

beauty.

Saccata crosses like *Stanhopea* Goldschmidtiana, *Stanhopea* Boileau and *Stanhopea* Racine are very difficult to keep separate.

Stanhopea Dachart

A real progress – at least concerning colour – are the hybrids with *Stanhopea insignis*. Crosses like *Stanhopea* Dachart (*Stanhopea insignis* x *Stanhopea saccata*), *Stanhopea* Cheddleton Chief (*Stanhopea insignis* x *Stanhopea connata*) and *Stanhopea* Miss Taki (*Stanhopea martiana* x *Stanhopea insignis*) are unifying the intensive colour and the large and decorative lip of both parents. *Stanhopea insignis* seems to transmit the large hypochile and the intensive colour, combined with species like *Stanhopea connata* or *martiana* the results are more than satisfying.

Stanhopea Assidensis

This is one of the oldest known hybrids, crossed 1922 by GOLDSCHMIDT between *Stanhopea tigrina* and *Stanhopea wardii*. Obviously this is a very easy plant in culture, some of the original plants from GOLDSCHMIDT survived up to today. The same is true for *Stanhopea* Spindleriana, registrated 1890 as cross between *Stanhopea oculata* and *Stanhopea tigrina*. Both are hybrids without any progress compared with the parent *Stanhopea tigrina*.

Stanhopea Mem. Paul Allen

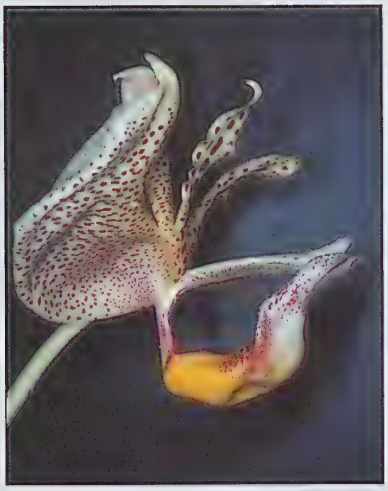
MOIR registrated this hybrid between *Stanhopea tigrina* and *Stanhopea ecornuta* in 1968. All hybrids with *Stanhopea ecornuta* as parent look very similar and they show very often deformations on the lip, especially on the hypochile. The influence of the "hornless" *Stanhopea ecornuta* is very clearly visible: the horns of the mesochile are strongly reduced, the mesochile itself is almost completely united with epichile and hypochile, with his the lip seems to be unipartite. The flowers of *Stanhopea ecornuta* are much smaller that





Left: *Aciopea* Guillermo Gaviria (*Acineta erythroxantha* x *Stanhopea wardii*). (Slide A.Ramirez)

Below: *Coryhopea* Wistman's Wood (*Coryanthes speciosa* x *Stanhopea oculata*). (Slide D.Hartley)





Above: *Cirrhopea* Alpha (*Stanhopea insignis* x *Cirrhaea dependens*). (Slide D.Hartley)

Left: *Stanhopea ecornuta* Lemaire. (Slide R.Jenny)

Right: *Stangora* Ombelle d'Automne (*Stanhopea hernandezii* x *Gongora galeata*). (Slide M.& M.F.Bourdon)



those of the other parent, *Stanhopea tigrina*, the deformations of the hypochile are based on the fact that there is not enough room for the large buds (*Stanhopea tigrina*) on the very short inflorescence (*Stanhopea ecornuta*). The same effect is known from all known natural hybrids with *Stanhopea ecornuta*: *Stanhopea* x *horichiana*, *Stanhopea* x *lewisae* and *Stanhopea* x *fowliean*. *Stanhopea ecornuta* is forming very easily hybrids with all other known species of the genus.

Stanhopea Lydia Bush

The cross between *Stanhopea nigroviolacea* and *Stanhopea grandiflora* is show-

ing the dominant impact of *Stanhopea grandiflora* concerning morphology and colour, but the result is more interesting than beautiful. The lost *Stanhopea* x *quadricornis* is most probably a natural hybrid between *Stanhopea grandiflora* and a species from the group around *Stanhopea wardii*.

Aciopea Guillermo Gaviria

The first hybrid between *Acineta* and *Stanhopea* was registrated in 2004. The form of the inflorescence is more *Acineta*, the flowers are more *Stanhopea*-like, one of the few acceptable results of infrageneric crosses with *Stanhopea*

Cirrhopea Alpha

An other experiment is the cross between *Stanhopea insignis* and *Cirrhaea dependens*. The genus *Cirrhaea* is taxonomically seen even more chaotic than any other genus from the whole subtribe, it is not absolutely clear whether the used parent was in reality *Cirrhaea dependens*, like in *Coryhopea* is the result more interesting than beautiful.

Coryhopea Wistman's Wood

Flowers of *Coryanthes* are fascinating, flowers of *Stanhopeas* can be very beautiful, the mix of both his neither interesting nor beautiful but simply ugly and this is true for all of the known crosses. It is interesting to see how similar all of the 9 so far registrated crosses are.

Coryhopea Wistman's Wood is the cross between *Coryanthes speciosa* and *Stanhopea oculata* and was registrated by Burnham Nurseries in 1984.

Stanhocycnis Inspiration

Stanhocycnis Inspiration is a cross of my old friend Clarence HORICH from San Jose, Costa Rica who passed away a few years ago and was registrated in 1982. Of all seedlings only two survived and flowered, both disappeared and are most probably dead. As in most crosses with



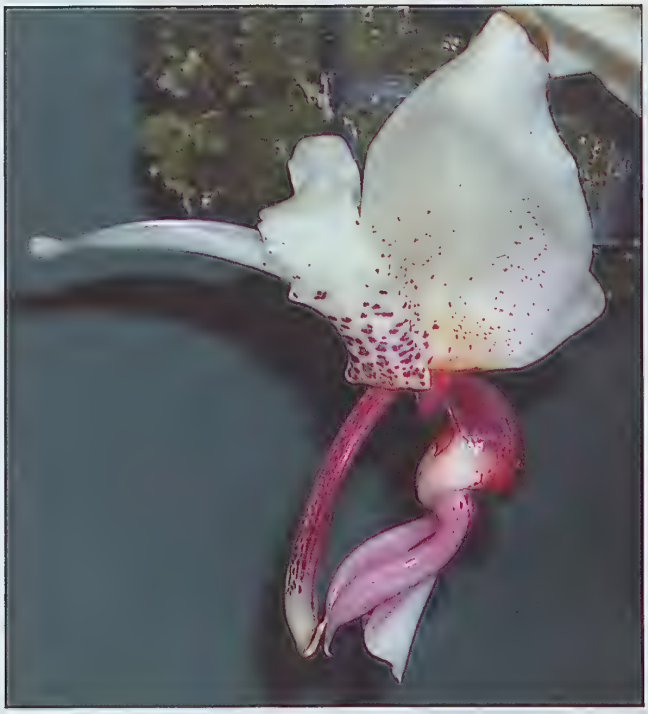
Left: *Stanhopea tigrina* var. *nigroviolacea* 'Greanleaf Gold' from Thomas Kaschak. (Slide T.Kaschak)

Below: *Stanhocycnis* Inspiration (*Stanhopea ecornuta* x *Polycycnis barbata*). (Slide C.Horich)





Stanhopea X *quadricornis* (Natural hybrid between *S. grandiflora* and an unknown species from Venezuela), plate from Edwards's Botanical Register. (Slide R.Jenny)



Above: *Stanhopea* Miss Taki (*S. martiana* x *S. insignis*). (Slide Dick Hartley)



Above: *Stanhopea* Cheddleton Chief (*S. connata* x *S. insignis*). (Slide Dick Hartley)

Below: *Stanhopea* Dachart (*S. saccata* x *S. insignis*). (Slide Dick Hartley)



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Stanhopea Lydia Bush (*S. nigroviolacea* x *S. grandiflora*). (Slide Dick Hartley)

Stanhopea ecornuta, the species is dominant and its influence is clearly visible. The colour is strongly influenced by the other parent *Polycycnis barbata*. *Stanhocycnis* Inspiration is definitely one of the few positive results of the hybridisation with *Stanhopea*.

Stangora Ombelle d'Automne

Stanhopea hernandezii crossed with *Gongora* galeata leads to *Stangora* Ombelle d'Automne and was registrated 2004 by M.& M.F.Bourdon. The first registration mentioned *Stanhopea costaricensis* as parent, this was later changed to *Stanhopea hernandezii*. The influence of *Stanhopea* is not as strong as the one from the used *Gongora* species. Like the other registrated *Stangora*, *Stangora* Elcimey (*Stanhopea ecornuta* x *Gongora horichiana*) from Clarence HORICH and registrated in 1984 the results is not convincing at all.

Footnote:

I would like to thank Dick HARTLEY from England, keeper of the National *Stanhopea* Collection for helping me with excellent pictures of his *Stanhopea* hybrids, Dick is beside Doug PULLEY one of the most prolific hybridisers in *Stanhopea*. Also Doug PULLEY helped very generously with material of his plants, also many thanks to him.

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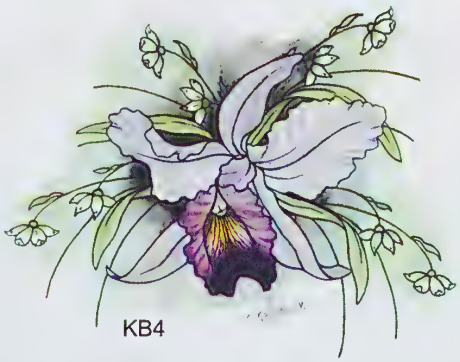


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Phalaenopsis Kulnura Frost 'Joshi'

Orchids out West – 2008

Orchid lovers are indeed a wonderfully dedicated group of people. I feel sure if you asked any of them where in the Sydney region was Clarendon they would have replied with a blank stare. But, put on an orchid show in this tiny outer suburb and they will find their way there with the instincts of a retriever.

When the OSNSW, following their borrowed concept in co-hosting the "Southern Orchid Spectacular" at Cronulla, decided to approach societies in Sydney's West to run a similar venture, the first problem was to locate a suitable venue. Some considerable time was spent checking on possible sites and all doubts disappeared when the Corporate Events Building at the Hawkesbury Race Club Clarendon was investigated. A huge carpeted function centre, uncluttered, flexible, adjacent to a large parking area and with easy access, skirting the racetrack and therefore enjoying some of the best light conditions the writer has seen. Our search was over but now to convince people to visit Clarendon

The local societies were approached because without their enthusiastic co-operation nothing would be possible. Did you know many people grow these wonderful plants out in this lovely area of far western Sydney? The locals, to succeed, face the challenge of some fairly extreme weather conditions; the temperature range experienced almost every year is from a low in winter of around –5°C, to highs in summer, sometimes for days on end of over 40°C. These people take this in their stride and overall produce a range and quality of blooms to challenge any district.

The Blue Mountains and Penrith District Orchid Society Inc., Hawkesbury District Orchid Society Inc. and The Blacktown City Orchid Society Inc. came on board, formed a coalition and provided a committee that started the daunting task of convening a show for the first time.

Primarily we had to convince a range of vendors to become part of the mix for without them we could not have got off the ground. The weather was kind to us and over the show dates and we experienced nothing but blue skies. I think however it was the hard work of the committee that convinced some 1,100 people to visit and ensure our success, more importantly convincing all involved that this could become a yearly event.

It is essential that you give the public something to remember and this was achieved by the set up of twelve individual displays, six from societies, three from individual growers and three from commercial vendors. There were 17 champions including the Grand Champion *Phalaenopsis* Kulnura Frost 'Joshi' grown, bred and exhibited by Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids. They also grew the impressive *Oncidium* Dark Sun 'Sunspot', a Gordon Giles bred hybrid. Champion Species was a very different form of the rarely seen



Above: *Oncidium* Dark Sun 'Sunspot' **Below:** Eastwood Orchid Circle display





Odontoglossum multistellare

Odontoglossum multistellare grown by noted species enthusiast Jim Brydie.

The one thing we definitely achieved was to ensure more people now know where Clarendon is and because of this planning is underway for a repeat performance over similar dates in 2009. We hope "Orchids Out West" will become a permanent annual fixture. The accompanying photos were taken by Craig Scott-Harden.

Graeme Scott-Harden
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Otochilus lancilabius

Text and photos by David Banks



The Asiatic sympodial genus *Otochilus* consists of five recognised epiphytic or lithophytic species within the broader *Coelogyninae*. In some ways they appear to be a link between the closely related *Pholidota* and the Type Section of *Dendrochium*. Despite the recent upsurge in interest in *Coelogyne, Dendrochilum* and related genera, *Otochilus* still are relatively unknown in cultivation and currently only appearing in specialist botanical orchid species collections. Their flowers are certainly not as large or flamboyant as many of the *Coelogyne* species, but they certainly have a unique charm and daintiness all of their own.

Four of these species, *Otochilus albus, Otochilus fuscus, Otochilus lancilabius* and *Otochilus porrectus* are roughly distributed from northern India and Nepal eastwards to China and into Indochina. *Otochilus pseudoporrectus* appears to be endemic to Vietnam. They are generally mountainous plants.

Otochilus albus, Otochilus fuscus and *Otochilus porrectus* were described by Lindley back in 1830, whilst *Otochilus*



Otochilus lancilabius

Pholidota articulata





lancilabius was described by Seidenfaden in 1986 and *Otochilus pseudoporrectus* subsequently named by Seidenfaden and Averyanov in 1988.

I had not seen any members of this genus in Australia, and took the opportunity of importing a number of plants of three of the available species (plus a suite of other interesting taxa) in an order from an orchid nursery in India, co-ordinated with Easy Orchids in late 2004.

The three species duly arrived – tagged as *Otochilus albus, Otochilus fuscus* and *Otochilus porrectus*. Most had lost their foliage during their transportation, gassing and quarantine experiences, but thankfully at least half the plants survived. Many of the plants were laid out on seedling trays of sphagnum moss, whilst some of the stronger ones were mounted on soft tree-fern totems.

Some of the plants however did look somewhat "familiar" to me, and this was confirmed when a number of these plants bloomed in late 2005 and 2006 – as the related *Pholidota articulata*. The growth habits are almost identical, with the new growths initiated from dormant growth



eyes almost at the top of the previous year's pseudobulb. The flowers however are quite different, with the *Otochilus* also having a narrower pointed leaf and of a thinner substance. In hindsight, I believe the names of the various *Otochilus* may be a bit jumbled, but only blooming out the various batches of plants will confirm or deny this.

In June 2008, I noticed that one of these mounted "thin-leafed plants" had a developing inflorescence appearing from the recently initiated and immature new growth, it subsequently bloomed in July 2008 – I had finally flowered an *Otochilus*! It turned out to be *Otochilus lancilabius* (a species I hadn't even ordered or was listed at all with this Indian nursery!), yet ironically there was also a small plant of *Pholidota articulata* on the same tree-fern mount. Some of the plant forms do look slightly different, but time will tell if I have a number of plants of the one species, or perhaps even 2, 3 or 4 different ones.

Cultivation

Otochilus do not appear to be fussy growers at all, and we have grown the plants in shadehouses (under 70% grade shadecloth) in north-western Sydney, both at our nursery at Northmead and in my private collection at Seven Hills. Plants on the tree-fern slabs like to be kept moist, whilst the potted plants enjoy the sphagnum moss. I intend eventually potting some of the plants, as they get larger, in a medium bark (75%) / coconut chip (20%) / perlite (5%) blended mix. I suspect that, as long as the conditions around them are favourable, they would prefer to be mounted on generous tree-fern slabs.

They have taken short bursts of freezing temperatures through winter and many days over 40°C in summer. It is important to keep the plants both shaded and moist, in a humid atmosphere. Do not expose them to direct sunlight and preferably do not allow the plants to dry out for an extended period of time. Basically they enjoy the same conditions as most *Dendrochilum* species.

I always find it exciting when "new" orchids bloom that you have previously not seen before, and also when plants are cheeky enough to defy the name tags placed with them. Now if I can only persuade those other plants to flower!

David Banks
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AOR 042

Visit New Zealand



Cymbidium Hot Port (Katy Buck design)

I was lucky enough to be invited to New Zealand in August 2008 by both the Waitakerie Orchid Club and the New Zealand Orchid Council. My first task was speaking as the after dinner speaker at the 25th anniversary of the Auckland Orchid Club. As one of the major Auckland clubs this club has a serious presence in the western suburbs of Auckland and their spring show reflected this.

Just as it would be in Southern Australia there was an influx of *Dendrobium kingianum* and it's hybrids on show, along with many cymbidiums, other cool growing species plus a sprinkling of the odd and unusual. Of particular note was the display of Chinese cymbidiums with a large selection from "Sincere Asian Orchids Nursery" showing many of the different characteristics that it seems only Asian folk are able to fully understand. We Europeans are still in the dark when it comes to understanding this interesting group.

Politics, it seems, has reared its head in New Zealand, even if not with the vigour it shows in Australia and this has lead to Auckland Orchid Club changing its name after 25 years. This club, led by Roy Neale of *Cymbidium* Pure Love fame is strong, united, active and is a credit to all involved. Now it is officially Waitakerie Orchid Club.

From there it became just like being in the circus, with a job every night speaking at one or another of the many societies in New Zealand. Jean and I travelled from Whangerei through Hamilton, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Napier, Masterton and Wellington then over the straight to Blenheim and Christchurch. The welcome received at each and every stop was overwhelming.

We admired the spirit and the ability of so many Kiwi growers who grow with the elements against them in their odd cold but very humid conditions. It was amazing to see well grown hard cane dendrobiums in the South Island. Aussies should also appreciate that importing orchid plants is so difficult in New Zealand that almost all orchids are raised ex flask . . . maybe things are not so bad in Australia after all!

Mind you, the Kiwis have a wonderful resource available in K & R Orchids at Tuakau. This nursery is one of the world premier species nurseries and principal Russell Hutton a wealth of knowledge for those seeking it.

Our tour provided a chance to pursue commercial opportunities we had identified over a few years and has resulted in two exciting new additions to the Easy Orchids range for orchid hobbyists and the public.

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The Ellerslie Flower Show is world famous and has become an institution in New Zealand. In 2009, for the very first time it will be held in the South Island in Christchurch and Easy Orchids will host a tour in conjunction with Casino Travel. Having hosted many overseas tours over the last 15 years we are combining our local knowledge of New Zealand with the lure of the South Island and featuring the Ellerslie Flower Show. Orchids will be a feature as Auckland Orchid Club won a major award last year and now there is competition. However the range and quality of the other flowers needs to be seen to be believed. Thus this tour will offer both orchid opportunity and visits to great gardens, glaciers, lake boat trip, fiords, a trans-alpine train trip and much more. The autumn is a magic time in South Island NZ as the autumn leaves are simply stunning. Details are advertised on the back page of this edition of the *AOR*. We are excited to be hosting what will be a low cost, great value visit to an area rich in floral sights and other wonders of our world.

The good that comes from being invited to be involved in orchid activities is immeasurable and we consider ourselves very fortunate.

Murray Shergold
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Phalaenopsis sanderiana
(Katy Buck design)

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AOR 123

Australian Natives

The native orchid flowering season continues but there is a change from mainly *Dendrocoryne* to *Sarcanthinae*. We now see crystalline white blooms of *Sarcochilus hartmannii,* red-splattered *S. fitzgeraldii* with the vanilla scent of *S. falcatus* filling the air. A number of other species also bloom at this time continuing to show the huge diversity of Australian natives.

Breeders gave achieved some really breath-taking colour combinations with *Sarcanthinae* – deep blood red, mauve-blue, icy pastel green and gold among other hues. The colours have really been intensified in many crosses. Some of the markings and flower shapes are intriguing. The hybrids have proven the way to get the colours of the hard or impossible to maintain species into plants which are easier to grow. The influence of *S. hartmannii* means there are long racemes with plenty of lowers which are well displayed.

If hybrids aren't your thing, who can look at the crystalline-white blooms of a well grown *Sarcochilus hartmannii* and not want to grow one of their own? Well, many of these are easy orchids to grow if you understand their few basic needs. Understanding the natural habitat of the species is important because the come from a wide range of areas and some are very sensitive to growing conditions. *Sarcanthinae* are in active growth most of the year. This can be seen as green roots tips. Light applications of fertiliser can be continued all year. These orchids need to be protected from the cold as well as low humidity and over bright sunlight. Just as important as good humidity is air movement. Still conditions allow fungal spores to settle and the thick leaves are very susceptible to damage. However, air movement lowers humidity so it is a balancing act to get things right. This is particularly important as we are threatened with yet another long, hot and dry summer this year with continuing water restrictions in many areas. Ponds and tubs of water in the bushhouse help as do foliage plants.

Watering plants to often leaches out nutrients and waterlogs pots. Misting the floor of the growing area during the day is a good way to keep humidity up, but not many growers will have the water to spare, or, if they do, their conscience about the wastage should deter them. Try thick mulch that will stay damp during the day. Gravel is good if you are worried about bark mulch harbouring pests and breaking down to sludge. Creating a shadier, protected area for your more sensitive plants is another option.

These plants are quite sensitive to frost and temperatures below freezing despite some species being subjected to extreme conditions in their natural habitat. They grow in protected niches and miss the extremes.

Some of the epiphytic *Sarcanthinae* grow better on a live host such as citrus trees. Be sure to check out the surrounds and don't kill the tree by tying the plant on with non-perishable material and ring-barking it! Water and fertiliser needs of these plants are the same as any others and may need special consideration to keep them moist. And don't use trees that shed their bark or leaves!

Sarcochilus fitzgeraldii is a plant that needs shaded, protected conditions. It occurs naturally beside watercourses, often on steep mountainsides, in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. These areas are damp at all times and heavily shaded, but sunlight – typically morning – breaks trough the canopy to spotlight the plants for at least a short time each day. There is quite a temperature range, just above freezing in winter to over 40°C in summer but the streams and the moss that covers the rocks they grow on, provide microclimates.

Sarcochilus hartmannii is easily grown as it comes from harsher locations than many might think. The readily accessible plants in the wild were collected long ago but those that remain perch just back from the edge of cliff tops. This species is best known from the volcanic structures of the rim of the Mt. Warning volcano. The plants can be subjected to blasts of summer heat and chilling winter winds but they cling to crevices where there is protection and moisture. The roots may run for metres through the grass. These sites have perfect drainage and it is root rot that this species is most susceptible to.

Sarcochilus ceciliae has narrow leaves and its appearance suggests the harsher climate in which it is found. This is more an inland plant from open eucalypt forest where it grows on rocky outcrops. The temperature range is quite wide and severe at times. Again the root system needs good drainage.

Sarcochilus falcatus is an epiphyte of rainforest. Its roots run across the trunks and branches of moss covered trees from southern Queensland to Victoria. It comes from cool, damp and protected environments – very pleasant places to be in the heat of summer. It will not grow in pots. This makes it a more difficult subject to maintain with reduced water as mounted plants have higher water requirements. The challenge is for growers to find a structure that keep moist enough to grow the plant, but not so wet the roots are saturated and unable to get the air movement. Growing appropriate mosses with the plants should help. There are many other species of *Sarcanthinae* but many are sensitive epiphytes and fare more difficult to cultivate. The *Sarcanthinae* species are susceptible to root rots if conditions in cultivation are not ideal. A plant might be growing strongly then suddenly drop its leaves and die. These orchids need really good

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drainage so most growers use coarse gravel in the mix. Shallow plastic or terracotta pots are used. The roots of many of these plants are a much a feature as the leaves (some species don't even have leaves). The roots like to run across the top of the media and invade the next pot on the bench. Mounted plants can have quite extensive root systems so allow plenty of room for growth when mounting.

Along with the *Sarcanthinae* there will be a range of other native orchids in bloom now. Some of these are easy to grow and add variety to a collection as well as provide flowers at a quieter time.

Of the *Cymbidium* species, *C. madidum* is the easiest to grow. It will tolerate a well-drained cymbidium mix or a dendrobium mix with some fine material. A large shallow pot is ideal but it will need to be hung to leave room for the pendulous racemes. This species comes from moister areas than the others – typically rainforest on the eastern side of the ranges between north-eastern New South Wales and northern Queensland.

The *Phauis* species are swamp plants. They are quite tough and easy to grow needing moist media with plenty of humus.

In warm weather it is important to be sure your plants are getting water when they need it. Water first thing in the morning or in the cool of evening to give the plants time to absorb it before the heat of the day. Keeping the evaporation rate lower it is a more environmentally sensible thing to do, and many growers won't have a choice about the time or even day they water. Regularly check all misters are working if you are still using them and that plants haven't grown and stop water reaching ones underneath them. Fertiliser is needed now, as this is the major growth time.

Repotting is best done now. Don't overpot native orchids and take care not to snap off new growths that will be starting as they are very brittle. Disinfect any tools and your hands or gloves between plants to avoid spreading viruses and other diseases. (Gloves protect your hands from the bark in media that can give them the texture of super coarse sandpaper!)

Fertilise, tidy up and repot and enjoy any blooms you may have.

Cattleyas

By the time you read these notes, some of your Cattleyas should be producing a few new roots. Once you see evidence of new root growth you may divide – repot if necessary. Potting medias are many. I still use DEBCO® bark and mix a little perlite (Super Coarse) at a rate of five parts bark (coarse) to one part perlite. Many growers over the last few years have used Coco Peat chips with great success. Others have added a little bark to the peat.

Do not over fertilise this time of the year. You many fertilise with GROWTH® Blood and Bone every ten days at 3 ml per litre of water. Plants with mature growth may like a good high potassium fertiliser such as PETERS CAL MAG Hi K or even PETERS BLOSSOM BOOSTER.

Inspect plants for scale insects. If present spray with ECO-OIT®. Spray every ten to twenty one days until the infestation has been cleaned up.

With spring here, give plants a good soak to wash out the salts that have accumulated over the cool winter months.

Cymbidiums

Are still displaying their wonderful blooms. Once plants have finished flowering, divide as soon as possible, so as plants get a good start before the hot weather hits us. After dividing give plants a few applications of a good quality rooting hormone. Fertilise plants with a good organic fertiliser such as MAJOR CARP®, GROWTH BLOOD & BONE® or maybe one of the kelp products.

Mature plants need one or two applications of a good organic, then over to a lower nitrogen with a higher potassium level. Apply weekly up to the end of December. Start to increase irrigations. This will depend on day temperatures. During the next couple of months, weekly watering maybe the norm.

Watch for insect and fungal problems. The most important chore is to inspect plants leaves for two-spotted mite damage or activity. If present, spray with a good quality miticide such as AZA-MAX®, OMITE® is also very popular as a miticide. To control black spot fungal diseases a preventive spray could be beneficial. Some fungicides that maybe used are CAPTAN®, MANCOZEB and ECO CARB®.

Now is the time to hang a few yellow sticky traps around in your shade house. These traps will let you know if there are any flying pesties around in your plants. Once you have collected your sticky traps full of insects, hand it to a D.P.I officer for identification. Then you can decide on what you can do to control these pests- biological or chemical!!

Phalaenopsis

Are still in bloom and growing well. Make sure night temperatures are still above 16 degrees C. Once the nights warm up you can turn your heat off.

Watch your watering. If necessary water every seven days. Fertilise weekly with a good fertiliser such as ALAN'S MERRI FERT or PETERS GENERAL PURPOSE.

Watch for bacterial spot. If present spray with HY SAN®. Keep infected plants on the dry side.

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AOR 124

How Your Computer Can Help Your Windowsill

AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY

If your sunny windowsill is lonely and in need of something green and flowery, log on now to the American Orchid Society's very popular Web site — *www.aos.org* — for helpful and extensive tips on orchid growing. Enjoy inspiring color photographs, a calendar of orchid events and other helpful orchid advice. Orchid Forum, developed as an information exchange platform, is visited regularly by novice and advanced growers throughout the world.

Founded in 1921, the AOS is the world's number-one orchid-information source — just ask 19,000 members worldwide. On-site membership application is available along with convenient, secured shopping for orchid and horticulture books.

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Paphiopedilum

A little care is necessary during spring as the weather can be quite variable. We generally have nice warm days and cool nights – ideal conditions for paphiopedilums to begin their main growth cycle.

Repotting was covered fairly comprehensively in the notes for July/August, however a few points are worthy of repetition:

Paphiopedilums thrive on repotting. It should be done every year for best results, no matter how happy the plant appears or how good the mixture looks. You can only see the top of it.

Don't overpot. Use a pot which will comfortably hold the roots. 'Squat' pots (height about equal to diameter) are best and drainage must be adequate. The base of the plant should be just below the surface of the mixture.

'Wobbly' plants should be staked.

Don't use Osmocote. It is just great for most orchids but paphiopedilums will not grow a good root system when it is used.

Repotting can be continued throughout this period – in fact, right up until about mid December, or later if you have effective cooling.

Watering should be done as required. If the weather is hot and dry you may need to water every couple of days; if cool and cloudy, once a week may suffice. It is particularly important to water in the morning if you possibly can. The object is to keep the soil temperature up; you can't achieve this if you water late in the day.

Fertiliser should be given regularly, particularly toward the end of this period. It is not too much to water with about half strength fertiliser every second or third watering. I find it very convenient to use a 'Hyponex siphon mixer', which plugs in at the tap end of the hose and sucks the concentrated fertiliser out of a 20 litre bucket. These are cheap and foolproof but they won't work against a lot of back pressure; I use a 'Gardenia' water breaker, screwed well out, on the end of a 20 metre hose and have no trouble.

I have always used Aquasol, supplemented with extra iron, a bit of magnesium now and then and Nitrosol which, apart from its value as a fertiliser, I believe acts as a wetting agent. Whilst I never really measure anything, the proportions are probably about: two teaspoons of Aquasol, one teaspoon of Nitrosol, a pinch of Iron Chelate and a few pinches of Epsom Salts all dissolved in about 20 litres of water. This is pretty weak, but I use it frequently.

About the only pests which trouble paphs. are scale and mealy bug. These become active around early November and it is not a bad idea to spray the collection during this month as a preventive measure. Malascale will clean these up fairly effectively. If you feel really heroic, Supracide is very effective. Whatever you use, take the appropriate precautions otherwise you may clean up the family dog, or even yourself.

Vandaceous

Watering:– Water daily. Keep the root system moist with additional misting if necessary.

Light:– Strap leaf vandas and ascocendas need 50 to 70% shade. Terete and semi-terete about 30%.

Fertiliser:– Fertilise weekly alternating over a four weekly period.

Wk.1. – Inorganic high nitrogen (Campbells B, Aqua feed or Aquasol).

Wk.2. – Foliar/Trace element (Wuxall Foliar).

Wk.3. – As for Wk.1.

Wk.4. – Organic (Fish Emulsion or Nitrosol).

Pest Control:– Fungicide every six weeks with Ridomil MZ WP, Daconil, Mancozeb or Wettable Sulphur).

Use Diazanon, Malathion or Pyrethrum to control insect pests.

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Laelia jongheana

Southern Orchid Spectacular and the Eric Marygold Trophy

Text and photos by Murray Aldridge

The Southern Orchid Spectacular, featuring the Eric Marygold Trophy was held on 11-13 October 2007. The Spectacular is a combination of the OSNSW Spring Show and an orchid fair featuring sixteen vendors from all around Australia.

The Spectacular is presented by the Orchid Society of New South Wales, the Sutherland Shire Orchid Society and the Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society at the modern and impressive leagues club, Sharkies, at Woolooware. The club features impressive parking facilities, bars, restaurants and coffee shops under the same roof as the Spectacular – rather making this a completely unique orchid event.

October is *Sarcochilus* time and the Spectacular features many classes designed to show these uniquely Australian orchids off at their best. To support this Sutherland Shire Orchid Society has, for many years, awarded a trophy. This trophy was initially awarded at Sutherland Shire's special *Sarcochilus* nights held at their October meetings but since the commencement of the Southern Orchid Spectacular the trophy has been awarded to the best *Sarcochilus* hybrid in the show. The trophy varies each year and is given in recognition and in memory of Eric Marygold and to celebrate the developments of these wonderful orchids.

Eric Marygold was a member of Sutherland Shire Orchid Society for many years. He, along with other members of the society such as George Colthup and Kevin Wilson were at the forefront of the re-discovery of Australian native orchids and the selection and breeding of quality forms and new interesting and colourful hybrids. One of the early outstanding clones of *Sarcochilus hartmannii* was found by him (around the Blue Knob region) and used by him and others in many breeding programmes (*Sarcochilus hartmannii* 'Eric Marygold').

This year's winner of the Eric Marygold Trophy was also the Grand Champion hybrid of the show. It was Neville Roper's clone of *Sarcochilus* Duno Nicky's Twin 'Voo Doo'. This outstanding plant received an Award of Merit from the Australian Orchid Council as well as an Award of Distinction. It carried two inflorescences of extremely well shaped dark red, velvety flowers with an evenness and intensity of colour that could only be dreamed of a few years ago.

Neville carried off champion seedling of the whole show with a beautiful *Sarcochilus* (Judith x Riversong) a lovely full-shaped white flower with a red centre and yellow lip. *S.* First Light 'Granny



Smith' lived up to its name – a light clear green. *S.* (Velvet x Fairy) was a colourful splash of red and white whilst *S.* (Yvette x *hartmannii*) was an impressive red and pink dazzler. An absolute stand out in the new colour department was *S.* Fizzy Dove 'Peachy' – the first truly soft pink/peach *Sarcochilus* ever seen at this event. Solid reds were to be seen too – an eye catcher was *S.* (Nicky x Fairy).

Also of note was the delightful display of mainly *Sarcochilus* entered by Barrita Orchids featuring a huge and massively impressive specimen plant of *S. hartmannii*. Eric, I am sure would have been very proud.

Of course the show is not just about *Sarcochilus*. There were many outstanding hybrids and interesting species shown. This time of the year is also the peak season for soft cane dendrobiums and the champion of that section was *Dendrobium* (Pink Doll x Lucky Gold) grown by Eric and Audrey Marks. This superb plant was

Left:
Sarcochilus Duno Nicky's Twin 'Voo Doo'

Below left:
Sarcochilus Fizzy Dove 'Peachy'

Below centre:
Sarcochilus (Nicky x Fairy)





awarded a Highly Commended Certificate on the night. There were sixteen displays at the Spectacular each showcasing some interesting and spectacular orchids. North Shore's display featured a boldly flowered *Cattleya* Lyn Spencer 'Cha' whilst Dendi Orchids showed off three award winning *Phalaenopsis* and a lovely benching of the very rare *Laelia jongheana*.

Canberra Orchid Society featured a gnarly tree (painstakingly put together over several hours) festooned with orchids and surrounded by lovely terrestrial orchids in amongst the gear of an orchid hunter of last century.

The Southern Orchid Spectacular brings a wealth of flowering orchids and a range of orchids of every kind for sale to southern Sydney in a unique environment. It will be on again this year at Sharkies Leagues Club, Woolooware on 10-12 October 2008.

Murray Aldridge
Email:
mlv121213@optusnet.com.au

Right:
Sarcochilus First Light 'Granny Smith'

Below right:
Cattleya Lyn Spencer 'Cha'







The Fun of the Fair

Collectors' Plant Fair 2008

Once again, the weather gods smiled favourably on the fourth Collectors' Plant Fair at *Woodgreen*, Bilpin on 26 and 27 April with a weekend of brilliant autumn sunshine following many days of cloudy skies and drizzle.

More than 3,500 enthusiastic plant people were welcomed by the organisers, Peta and Peter Trahar and Beth Stokes to select from a wide range of rare and unusual plants on offer from 40 specialist growers.

The recent summer rains encouraged gardeners to buy up to revitalize their drought-affected gardens. People left with broad smiles and carloads of plants.

The specialist plant growers from all over NSW and Victoria had a treasure trove of plants suitable for all climates and all gardens. Much thought and time went into the display, presentation and informative labelling of their plants.



Collectors' Plant Fair organisers, Peta & Peter Trahar, Beth Stokes

There were plants for the tropical garden, the cottage garden, the back paddock and the balcony, or you could add to your succulent collection, your salvia collection or even your *Arisaema* collection . . . or purchase a special cloche from the Old Mole. There were new hybrids and recently released cultivars, unusual variegated forms of the usual and amazing plants you have probably never heard of or seen before. The stall holders not only offered their wonderful plants, they also offered helpful advice and knowledge. And if that wasn't enough, there was always more gems of wisdom to be gleaned from Florilegium Books.

The Collectors' Plant Fair award for the best stall went to Victoria's Post Office Farm Nursery for its excellence of plant material and stall presentation.

More expert advice was on hand from the Garden Clubs of Australia, the Hawkesbury Harvest Farm Gate Trail, TyTags plant labelling system, and from free talks given by the growers in the *Woodgreen* garden on Sunday covering a range of topics from rose growing to how to protect your plants from the stresses of extreme temperatures.

Visitors arrived from town and country NSW and beyond. Members of garden clubs came in coaches or minibuses, carloads came from Sydney and from 'over the mountains', neighbours walked in. Many came armed with bags and trolleys with which to carry home their precious bounty. Others came seeking that one special plant that they had been hoping to find for years, knowing that if there was any chance of finding it, it would be at the Collectors' Plant Fair.

A plant minding service enabled people to buy and buy, without having to lug around heavy bags full of plants. And to encourage even more buying, there were shuttle buses to take plants and people to your coach or car.

Peta's garden was a source of delight, and education, for the knowledgeable crowd impressed with her range of rare and unusual plants skillfully arranged to complement colour and to contrast foliage. The garden took on the additional role of an outdoor cafe with table and chairs scattered between garden beds and beneath trees.

Australians have gained a reputation for their willingness and expertise as volunteer helpers, and this was nowhere more evident than at the Fair. Members of the Bilpin Bushfire Brigade directed traffic and organised parking, a task gratefully acknowledged with a donation by the organisers of 25% of the proceeds. Many friends and family pitched in to prepare the site, erect signs, meet and greet visitors, help stallholders, run the plant minding creche, drive shuttle buses, and to meet a myriad of other demands suddenly thrust upon them.

In the *Woodgreen* homestead there was botanical art display by renowned local artist Elaine Musgrave. Well known designer and author, Michael McCoy gave a beautifully illustrated and eloquent talk on how drought-stricken Australian gardens can still learn from Northern Hemisphere gardens and Jill Wran shared her joy of gardening and her extensive knowledge of plants as she described the evolution of her garden, Jumjum in the Yarramalong Valley.

Good garden design does not rest on plants alone. Garden designer, Margaret Cory and nursery man Mark Morrison designed and constructed the inaugural display garden at the Fair – *The Garden of Visual Delights* – which was brimming with innovative ideas for decorative and visual garden surprises.

To give a further creative edge to your garden, there was an exhibition of fine garden ornamentation by Brock Metalcraft including elegant pergolas, arches, wall features and plant supports.

Children and adults alike loved horticulturist Ian McMaugh's display of bantam chooks and Mountain Arks' portable chicken coops.

The finale to the fair was the inaugural Rare Plant Auction on Sunday afternoon. Many stallholders donated some very special plants with proceeds benefiting Lifeline celebrating its 45th anniversary this year. Plants on offer ranged from the seriously rare Blue Brazilian Hippeastrum to the first-time-offered-in-Australia *Clivia miniata* 'Europeach'.

The Collectors' Plant Fair was delighted to welcome Hartley Valley Nursery as a major sponsor of this year's Fair. Bill and Vicky Grattan have reopened the Hartley Valley Nursery at Little Hartley specialising in unusual trees, shrubs and perennials.

The Australian Institute of Horticulture is a strong supporter of the Fair and hosted a Saturday evening get-together for stall holders and volunteers.

The Fair was especially grateful to local contractor, Maine Powell who in the days before the Fair, restored the rain-soaked tracks with loads of gravel to provide bog-free access to the car park and stall area.

Beth Stokes for Collectors' Plant Fair
collectorsplantfair@bigpond.com

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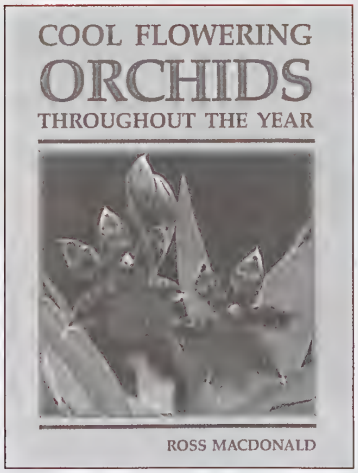
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COOL FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

Ross Macdonald is a highly respected orchid grower and photographer from the North Island of New Zealand. This volume is devoted to cool growing orchid genera, which are easy to cultivate in New Zealand and southern Australia. Growers in tropical areas should not be discouraged, as many of these orchids are indeed adaptable and will grow in a range of climates. Andy Easton has written the foreword. Ross has devoted the first few pages of the book to cultural hints, which are down to earth and give practical information on the basics of orchid cultivation. Basically this is a pictorial book with over 300 full colour photographs, covering a similar number of orchid species and hybrids. The quality of both the photographs and the colour reproduction is impressive. All of the orchids have been captured using available sunlight and there is no flash photography. There is a wide range of orchid genera covered with particular emphasis placed on cymbidiums, dendrobiums, laelias, masdevallias, the Odontoglossum alliance and Paphiopedilum.

The photographs are arranged in four chapters, referring on their main blooming season. The use of seasons ensures the text is also applicable to growers in the northern hemisphere. This inexpensive book is exceptional value and importantly is written by someone who knows and grows these orchids. I thoroughly recommend this book to orchid growers, as it will be of great value to both novice and experienced enthusiasts.

144 pp.
242mm x 168mm
Softcover.

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SARCOCHILUS ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA

Walter T. Upton

Sarcochilus Orchids of Australia is the first book to cover all aspects of species of the genus Sarcochilus. Compact plants of great floral beauty with ease of culture, they are mostly cool to cold growing, requiring limited space, and for these reasons are quickly becoming the orchid of the future.

The book gives each individual species a separate entry, with information on its history, synonyms, distribution, habitat, cultivation and hybrids, along with a drawing showing the main parts of the plant and flower, plus a colour plate providing an easy means of identification.

Hybridising, including intergenerics, is dealt with in detail – most registered hybrids being accompanied by a colour plate. Other chapters include pollination, seed raising and cultural information for the home grower.

This is Walter T. Upton's third book and is a companion to his very popular and informative *Dendrobium Orchids of Australia*.

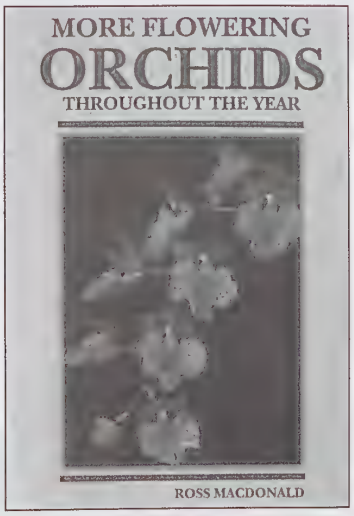
119 pages, colour and B&W.

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MORE FLOWERING ORCHIDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

by Ross Macdonald

This is the sister volume to *Cool Flowering Orchids throughout the Year*. It is in the same format and style as the previous book, but also includes some genera that would require artificial heating in cooler climates. This volume covers a further 314 orchid species and hybrids with 344 colour plates. Both texts are highly recommend to all orchid fanciers; particularly newcomers who wish to see an array of delightful flowers that they could grow.



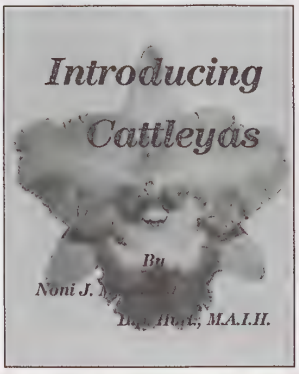
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INTRODUCING CATTLEYAS

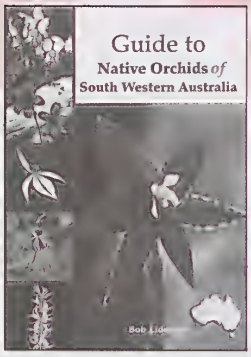
Noni J. Mammatt

Noni Mammatt's fascination with the Cattleya Alliance, their most beautiful blooms and extensive range of colour combinations, has prompted Noni to share the results of her own trials in successfully growing and flowering all types of this most beautiful genus under shadehouse conditions in the city of Perth in Western Australia. She hopes that as a result of her writing some new growers, as well as the experienced growers of other orchid genera, may be encouraged to introduce the Cattleya Alliance into their collections.



24 pages, B&W.

OUR DISCOUNT PRICE $A6.60 (Incl.GST) was $7.15 RRP (Incl. GST) PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING



A GUIDE TO NATIVE ORCHIDS OF SOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Bob Liddelow

This book beautifully illustrates the orchids of this part of Australia. Bob Liddelow has spent a considerable amount of time in the field, each season, seeking out many different orchids.

This is an Orchid Guide with a difference. Instead of covering all species with total distribution areas, this book treats a very representative collection of orchids in great detail. The specific sites for each orchid are illustrated with 'mud maps'.

The book also cross-references some 142 orchids with about 100 sites in the greater south-west of Western Australia. Every orchid is illustrated in full colour.

There is also comprehensive indexes, a glossary, author's notes and more.

Over 210 pages, colour throughout.
210mm x 148mm.
Softcover.

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was $34.95 RRP (Incl. GST) PLUS POSTAGE AND HANDLING

GROWING PHALAENOPSIS AT HOME

by James Neal



This book is essential reading and reference for any person who grows, or is intending to grow, Phalaenopsis.

Jim, in a simple and easily understood style, explains and elaborates on light conditions, watering, temperatures, fertilisers, pests and diseases.

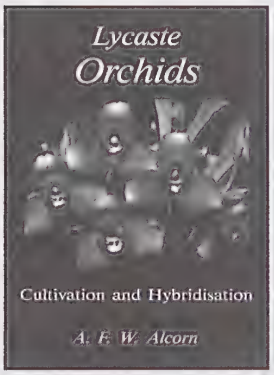
Explanations of the way Phalaenopsis are named and the implications of growing seedlings, illustrate some of the more difficult ideas for the layman to understand.

The colour photography illustrates beautifully the topics under discussion and the orchid names are supplied, where necessary, as a caption.

The illustrations drawn by Jim's son Jamie are pertinent and succinct and make the subject more easily understood.

56 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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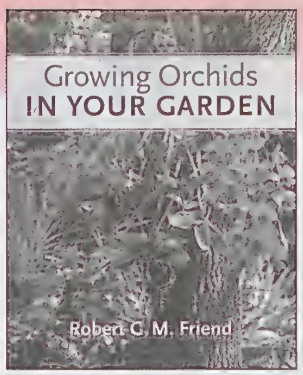
LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation

A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages, colour and B&W.

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GROWING ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

by Robert Friend

Just about wherever you live in the world, you can grow orchids in your garden. In this exciting book, Robert Friend shows gardeners how to introduce orchids into the garden by attaching them to trees, fixing them to rocks and walls, or planting them directly into garden beds.

He has traveled the world from Florida to the cool forests of North America, to the tropics of the Pacific Rim and to his origins in Australasia, searching for new ideas and new ways to cultivate these striking plants.

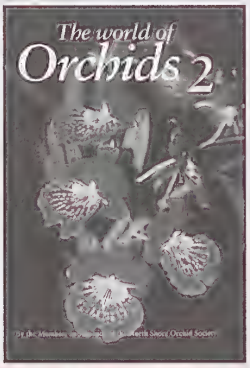
The author details more than 500 orchid choices for every garden situation and supplies practical cultivation information in thorough charts and tables.

Growing Orchids in Your Garden offers an array of dramatic ideas for every reader.

220 pages in colour.

OUR DISCOUNT PRICE $A43.95 (Incl.GST)
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THE WORLD OF ORCHIDS – 2



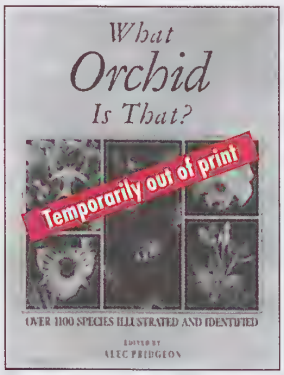
The World of Orchids – 2 has been written by members and friends of the North Shore Orchid Society about orchids grown in Sydney and its environs, and we are indebted to those people for their time and effort.

It has been produced to cover a large range of genera to help not only the novice, but also the experienced grower in their present fields of interest, and to tempt and encourage them to try other genera.

It should be pointed out that the methods of culture used by the authors are those which they themselves have found successful. Growers should try any changes to their own culture gradually and on a few plants first, as orchids respond differently under different conditions.

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A New Genus in the Subtribe *Eriinae*

Wally Suarez and Jim Cootes

Our studies in the Eriinae have concluded that what is currently known as Section ***Aporodes*** Schltr., in the genus ***Eria***, is worthy of generic status in its own right.

Aporodes (Schltr.) Suarez *et* Cootes, *gen. et stat. nov.*

Basionym: ***Eria*** Lindl. sect. ***Aporodes*** Schltr. *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.* 10: 85, 1911

Type species: ***Eria aporoides*** Lindl., *J. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 3: 60, 1858.

New Combinations:

Aporodes fragrans (Lindl.) Suarez *et* Cootes, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: ***Eria aporoides*** Lindl., *J. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 3: 60, 1859.

Aporodes fragrans subsp. ***celebica*** (J.J. Sm.) Suarez *et* Cootes *comb. nov.* J.J. Sm.

Basionym: ***Eria aporoides*** var. ***celebica*** J.J. Sm., *Blumea* 5: 3 p. 738, 1945

Aporodes decipiens (Schltr.) Suarez *et* Cootes, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: ***Eria decipiens*** Schltr., *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.* 10: 85, 1911

Aporodes soronensis (Schltr.) Suarez *et* Cootes, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: ***Eria soronensis*** Schltr., *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.* 9: 286, 1911

Recognition:

The plants of this genus differ markedly from those in ***Eria***, in the strict sense, by having no pseudobulbs and in the laterally flattened leaves and stems. The axillary, single-flowered, inflorescences are subtended by four, large, yellow to orange floral bracts.

Etymology:

The generic epithet refers to the plants resemblance to the orchid genus ***Aporum*** Bl. (from the Dendrobiinae).

Distribution:

Aporodes is a genus native to the Philippines, Sulawesi and New Guinea. At present we recognise three species and one subspecies.

Notes:

We first published the genus ***Aporodes*** in the *Philippine Orchid Review* Vol. 15 No. 2 pages 17 & 18 in 2007. This publication was invalid because the basionym citation was incomplete; hence the publication of the epithet again, this time using the complete citation.

There was some discussion on what the correct specific epithet should be for this species. The specific epithet ***fragrans*** was chosen because of the scented blooms of this species. It also has to be used because to have used aporoides would be against a recommendation cited in the ***International Code of Botanical Nomenclature:*** Recommendation 23A.3 (e) page 45: "To avoid those (epithets) which have the same meaning as the generic name (pleonasm)."

A photograph of *Aporodes fragrans* appeared on page 27 of the February-March 2008 (Volume 73, Number 1) issue of the *Australian Orchid Review*.

Acknowledgements:

Our sincere thanks are given to David Banks, for his advice in the writing of this paper. Peter O'Byrne (Singapore) assisted us with information on the Sulawesi species of this genus. Also to Paul Ormerod (Cairns) and Dr. Peter Weston (NSW) for their ongoing taxonomic assistance.

Jim Cootes (Riverwood, NSW)
Email: jecootes@ozemail.com.au

Wally Suarez (Philippines)
Email: ayi_boy12@yahoo.com

Caloundra's Golden Orchidfest 2010

The Sunshine Coast Orchid Society Caloundra Inc. on behalf of the Sub-Tropical Orchid Council of Queensland

invites you to join us for this extravaganza of orchid displays, vendors and guest speakers.

Date: Saturday 12, Sunday 13, Monday 14 June 2010.

Venue: Lake Kawana Community Centre

Contact: *Chairman* – Charlie McMonagle – charlie.mac@bigpond.com. au
Secretary – Marg Lenz – fmlenz@westnet.com.au

Phone: 07 5491 5654

AOR 160

SHOWDATES

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS	CONTACT No.
New South Wales					
3 October 4-5 October	10.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Port Macquarie Orc & Brom Soc Orchids By The Sea	Auditorium, Panthers Port Macquarie Bay Street, Port Macquarie	02 6582 0186
4 October	9.00am-2.00pm	Spring	Southern Riverina OS Winter Show	CWA Hall Wason Street, Milton	02 4441 3553
9-10 October 11 October	8.30am-9.00pm 8.30am-3.00pm	Spring	Tweed District OS Spring Show	Tweed City Shopping Centre Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South	02 6677 9071
10-12 October	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Orchid Society of NSW Southern Orchid Spectacular	'Sharkies' Leagues Club Captain Cook Drive, Cronulla	02 9649 2719
11 October 12 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Albury-Wodonga & District OS Inland Championship Orc Show	Mirambeena Centre 19 Martha Mews, Lavington	02 6023 3379
15-18 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Central Coast & Lakes OS Winter Show	Lakeside Shopping Centre The Entrance Road & Dening Street, The Entrance	
18-19 October	9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	ANOS Illawarra Sarcochilus Show	The Old Courthouse Cliff Road, Wollongong	02 4284 8308
23-25 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Northern Rivers Orc Species Soc NROSS Spring Show	Lismore Shopping Square Cnr Brewster & Uralba Streets, Lismore	
23-26 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Western Suburbs OS Spring Show	Rockdale Plaza Shopping Centre Rockdale	
25 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Orchid SPECIES NSW Annual Show & Auction	Community of Christ Neighbourhood Centre 10-14 Taylor Street, West Pennant Hills	
9 November	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Hastings River OS 'Festival of Orchids and Jazz'	Bago Vineyards Milligans Road, Wauchope	
ACT					
4 October 5 October	10.00am-5.00pm 12noon-4.00pm	Spring	Orchid Society of Canberra Spring Show	St Johns Church Constitution Avenue, Reid, Canberra	
Queensland					
4 October	8.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Redlands Orchid Society Spring Charity Show	Donald Simpson Leisure Centre Bloomfield Street, Cleveland	07 3207 8082
9-11 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	The Gold Coast OS Spring Display	Pines Shopping Centre Elanora, Gold Coast	07 5525 1668
10-11 October 12 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Townsville OS Spring Show	Townsville Orchid Society Hall Joe Kirwan Park, Charles Street, Kirwan	07 4773 4208
11 October 12 October	8.30am-5.00pm 8.30am-1.00pm	Spring	Hervey Bay OS 25th Anniversary Extravaganza	Great Hall, Hervey Bay High School Cnr Beach & Old Maryborough Roads, Pialba	
11-12 October	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Bribie Island OS Spring Orchid Show	Bribie Island State High School First Avenue, Bribie Island	07 3410 1919
16-18 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Pine Rivers OS – Spring Show	Pick-n-Pay Aspley, Gympie Road, Aspley	07 5428 7972
25 October 26 October	9.00am-5.30pm 9.00am-3.00pm	Spring	Native Orc Soc of Toowoomba Sarcochilus Festival	Walsh's Garden Centre 881 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba	07 4635 2274
30-31 October 1 November	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mackay & District OS Spring Show	Mount Pleasant/Greenfield Shopping Centre Mackay	07 4943 0150
Victoria					
3-5 October	Shoppng Centre Hours	Spring	Gippsland OC Spring Show	Mid Valley Shopping Plaza Princes Highway, Morwell	03 5122 1034
3 October 4 October 5 October	1.00pm-5.00pm 10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Bendigo Orchid Club Annual Spring Show	YMCA Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat	03 5446 1026
4-5 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Geelong Orc & Indoor Plant Club Aussie Back Yard	Christ Church Hall Cnr Moorabool & McKillop Streets, Geelong	03 5250 2503
4 October 5 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Winter	Horsham & District OS	Town Hall Wilson Street, Horsham	
4 October 5 October	10.00am-4.00pm 10.00am-3.00pm	Winter	Warrnambool District OS	Warrnambool College Hall Grafton Road, Warrnambool	
4 October 5 October	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ringwood OS	Maroondah College Hall Brentnall Road, Croydon	
4 October 5 October	9.00am-5.00pm 12noon-4.30pmpm	Spring	Melbourne Eastern OS MEOS World of Orchids	Burwood Heights Uniting Church Comm Hall Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd, Burwood East	03 9807 6206
11 October 12 October	9.00am-4.30pm 9.30am-4.30pm	Spring	Warringal OS Spring Show	St Sava Community Centre 212 Diamond Creek Road, Greensborough	03 9465 3305
11-12 October	10.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Colac Orchid Club Spring Show	Colac High School Assembly Hall Murray Street, Colac West	
12-18 October	Shopping Centre Hours	Spring	Mornington Peninsular OS Spring Show	Gateway Shopping Complex Cranbourne & Frankston Roads, Langwarrin	
17 October 18-19 October	1.00pm-4.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ballarat OS Spring Show	SMB Horticultural Centre Cnr Gillies & Gregory Streets, Ballarat	
18 October 19 October	9.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS 24th Annual Orchid Festival	Seville Public Hall Warburton Highway, Seville	03 9725 7513
18 October 19 October	9.30am-4.30pm 9.30am-4.00pm	Spring	Cobden & District OS Spring Show	Cobden Civic Hall Victoria Street, Cobden	03 5595 1527

DATE	TIME	SEASON	ORCHID SOCIETY	SHOW ADDRESS	
25 October 26 October	10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Ararat Orchid Club Spring Show	Arts Activity Centre, Town Hall Main Street, Ararat	
1-2 November	9.00am-5.00pm	Spring	Mornington Peninsular OS	Brotherhood of St Lawrence High Street, Frankston	
1-2 November	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	ANOS Geelong Group Annual Show	Masonic Centre Regent Street, Belmont, Geelong	03 5278 3919
1-2 November	10.00am-4.00pm	Summer	Bayside Orchid Society Summer Show	Chisolm TAFE Berwick & Cranbourne Roads, Cranbourne	03 5978 6045
1-3 November 4 November	9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-3.30pm	Spring	Stawell OS Spring Show	Halls Gap Hall Main Street, Halls Gap	
8-9 November	9.00am-5.00pm		Maribyrnong OS Sarc Festival of Victoria	Maribyrnong Community Centre Randall Street, Maribyrnong	
8 November 9 November	10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Yarra Valley OS Sarcochilus Show	B&T Ferns and Orchids 30 Wiseman Road, Silvan	03 9725 7513
Tasmania					
3-5 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Launceston OS 2008 Spring Show	Glenara Lakes Hall Youngtown	03 6343 0804
3 October 4 October 5 October	2.00pm-5.30pm 9.00am-5.30pm 9.00am-4.30pm	Spring	Devonport Orchid Society Spring Show	Maidston Park Memorial Hall Spreyton	03 6428 3226
10 October 11 October 12 October	2.00pm-5.00pm 9.00am-5.00pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Burnie Orchid Society Spring Show	Braddon Hall Burnie Civic Centre, Burnie	03 6435 2708
New Zealand					
4 October 5 October	10.00am-5.00pm 10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Wairarapa Orchid Circle Spring Show	Masterton Town Hall Masterton	06 378 2902
5 October 6 October	10.00am-4.30pm 9.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Canterbury Orchid Society Spring Show	Canterbury Horticultural Centre Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch	
11-12 October	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Wanganui Orchid Society Spring Show	Memorial Hall Queens Park, Wanganui	06 344 6080
1 November	10.00am-4.00pm	Spring	Hawkes Bay Orchid Society Sarcochilus Show	Taradale Town Hall Cnr Lee & Meeanee Roads, Taradale	06 877 7013

18th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show

Werribee, Victoria 8-13 September 2009

The 18th Australian Orchid Council Conference & Show will be held next September 2009 in Werribee, Victoria, just 20 minutes by a freeway to the west of Melbourne. It is now just over 12 months away and our organisation is speeding up.

The conference host is The Maribyrnong Orchid Society, a Society based in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. This Society is also getting great support from five other local Victorian Orchid Societies to help them put on this event during what will be our springtime. The City of Wyndham, which takes in Werribee, Point Cook, Hoppers Crossing and Little River, is the gateway to the picturesque Great Ocean Road on the south coast.

Some of the local features of the City of Wyndham area are:

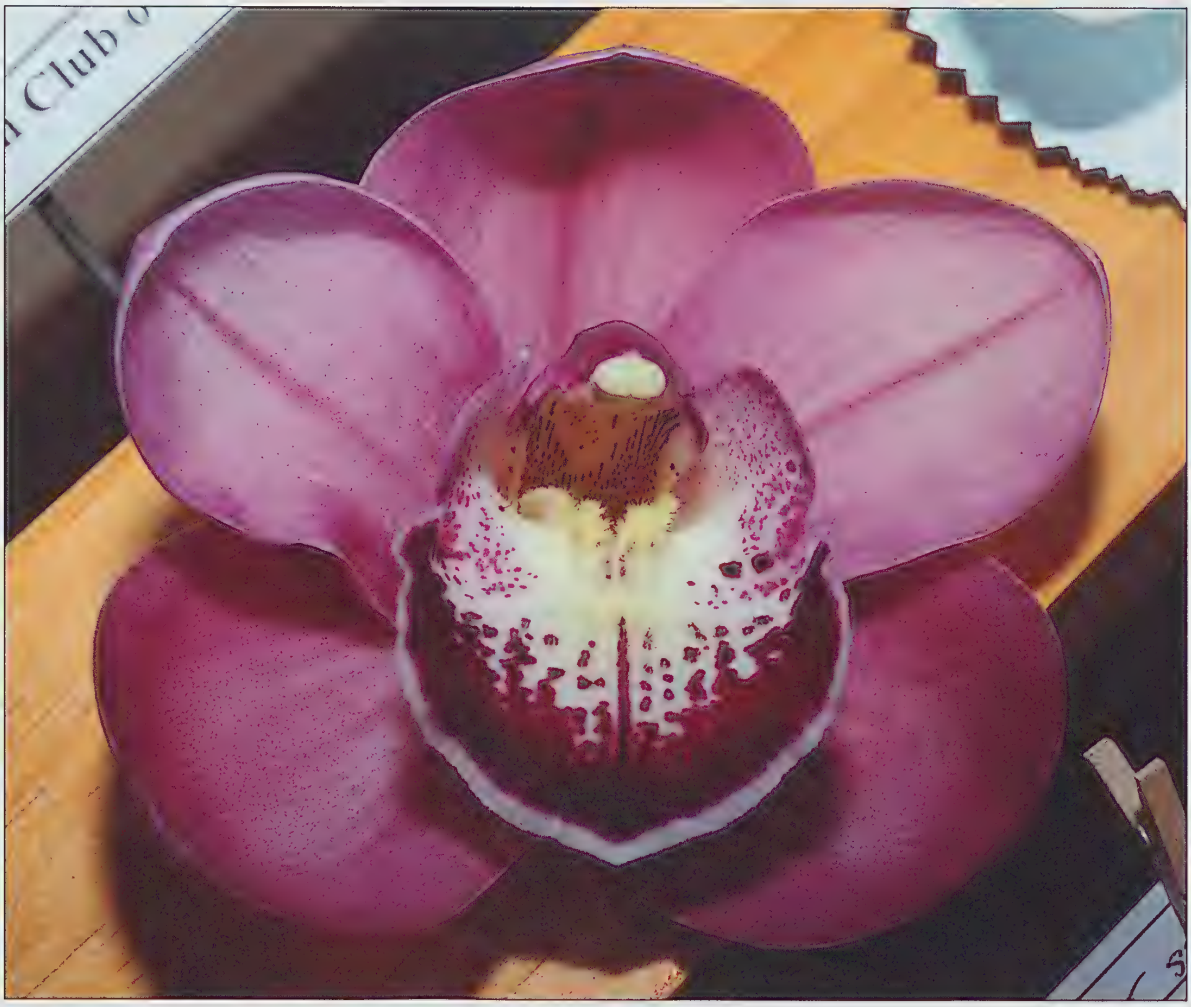
- The biggest market garden growing area in the state
- Victoria's Open Range Zoo is just 10 minutes to the south of Werribee, on a 200 hectare property featuring a 50 minutes guided Wildlife Safari
- The historic Werribee Park Mansion, built by the Chirnside family in the 1870s. The Mansion sits in ten hectares of an exquisite formal garden www.werribeepark.com.au
- Victorian State Rose Garden boasting over 5000 roses.
- Sofitel Mansion & Spa, a 5 star hotel – the ultimate place to stay reservations@mansiongroup.com.au
- Shadowfax Vineyard featuring locally produced wines
- A golf course designed by Greg Norman at Sanctuary Lakes – just 15 minutes drive from Werribee
- Werribee is just 40 minutes from the International Melbourne Airport and 15 minutes from Avalon Airport serviced by the discount carrier Jet Star.
- Tours will be held on two days of the conference, one to the Anglesea area just an hour west searching out native Orchids, including BBQ lunch in the bush and perhaps a 'shop till you drop' outing with lunch in one of the Chinese restaurants in the city of Melbourne.
- Australian Air Force Museum at Point Cook

The venues are all booked and the deposits paid. All local and interstate orchid clubs and societies should have been sent a letter inviting them to attend plus the show schedule. The 'Early Bird' Registration forms will be available in September of this year and will run for 6 months. If you wish to be placed on our list for all conference information simply email the Conference Secretary Eric Wilde at ef.wilde@bigpond.com

The local accommodation gives you quite a range in prices, from a couple of Caravan Park on the beach at Werribee South to a 5 Star hotel. Ask for a copy to be sent to you at tourism@wyndham.vic.gov.au or the Conference Secretary. Orchid growers, local, interstate and overseas will be made most welcome. Information as it comes to hand will be put on our club web-site www.mosorchid.org We are also arranging for Cites export permits to be issued from suitably registered vendors so that overseas registrants can take their plants home. AQIS is also being consulted about the issue of Phytosanitary certificates.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Conference Secretary if you think we can help with your planning.

Eric Wilde
Conference Secretary
Email: ef.wilde@bigpond.com



Cymbidium Lunar Blaze

Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW) Winter Show 2008

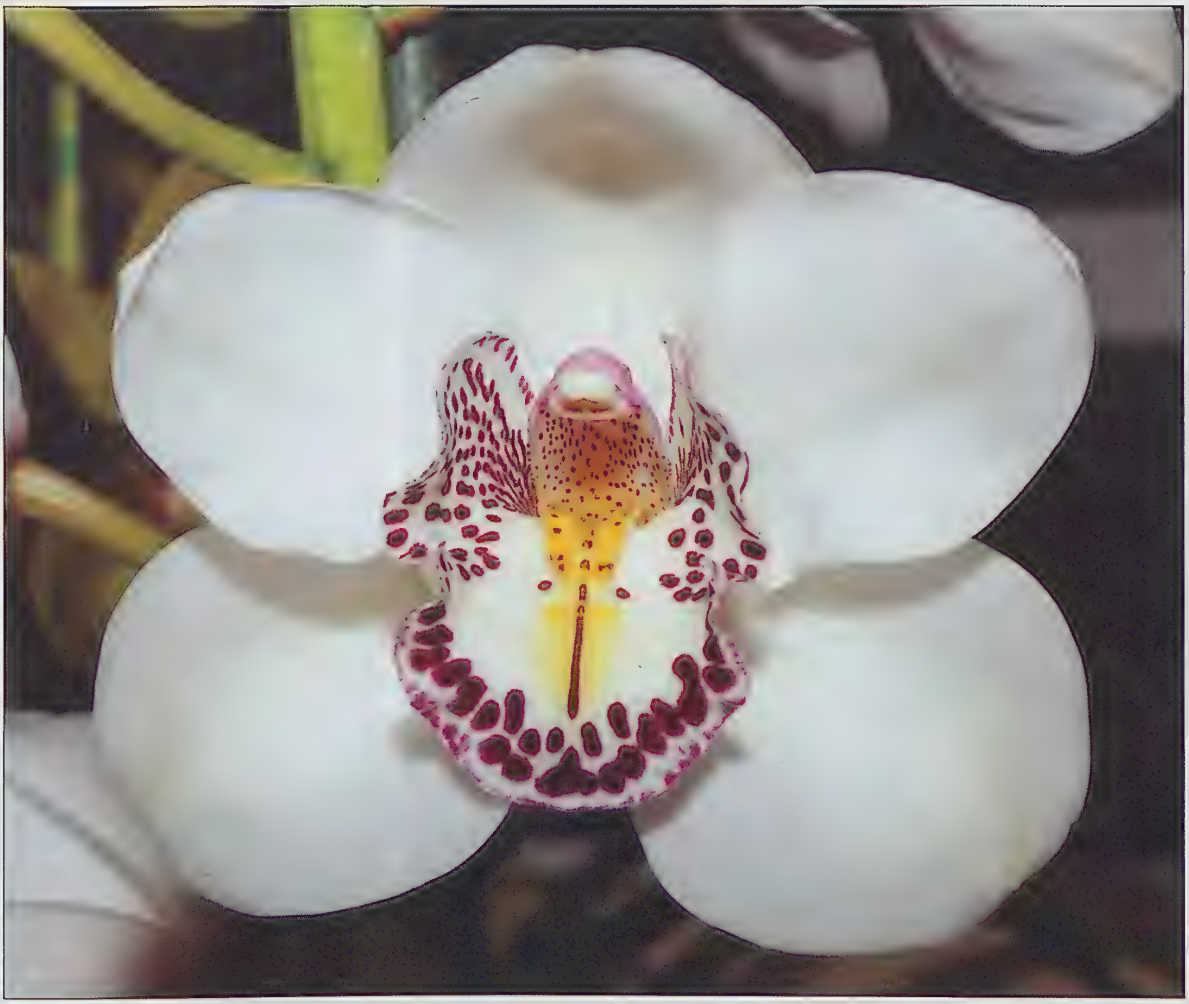
Text and photos by Terry Davis

Thursday 10th of July 2008, the Winter Show meeting night for the Cymbidium Club of Australia (NSW). I remember thinking too myself earlier in the day how appropriate for a winter show night, the day was cold and the strong wind made it feel even colder. As night fell the wind abated leaving a still and pleasantly cool evening for the meeting.

Arriving at the hall in Lakemba, we were surprised by the fine displays of quality cymbidium orchid plants, cut stems and single blooms already filling the tables and stands on each side of the hall, ready for the judges' consideration, so much for being early. Credit has to go to Keith Harris as the Show Marshal for having all the tables organised with the stands for the single blooms and cut stems unpacked and assembled ready for the exhibitors to set up and show their blooms and plants. Unpacking the camera I took several photographs of some of the seedlings that appealed to me personally and discussed their merits with other members before the meeting proper. The meeting got underway at the usual time; the judging panels with associates in tow were assigned to evaluate the offerings in the various displayed sections.

While the judging was underway the president Geoff Le Marne conducted the general meeting for the many members present. The judging completed, the meeting adjourned for the supper break, thanks to the usual ladies who as always make the drinks and food ready for the members. The members must have been inspired by the thoughts of it being show night as the offering of sandwiches and other treats provided exceeded most other meeting nights.

After supper we got down to the business of announcing the place winners in each of the sections and the overall winner for the night. The Champion Orchid for the night and best in the show bench small standard section was a very well grown plant of the tetraploid form of *Cymbidium* Margaret Thatcher 'Perfection' a nice pale green small standard orchid exhibited by Bryan Janes. Other winners in the show bench section



Above: *Cymbidium* Maclure's Quest 'Starquest'
Below: *Cymbidium* Sylvan Beach 'Michelle'





Cymbidium Tonto's Target



Cymbidium Ruby Valley

were the large flower standard, *Cym.* Maclure's Quest 'Starquest' exhibited by Geoff Le Marne, this lovely white large flower is very shapely and is a regular winner when shown. The show bench intermediate was won by the bright yellow *Cym.* One Tree Hill 'Beenak' shown by Ian Drury and in the miniature section a plant of *Cym.* Sarah Jean 'Pink' with eight arching flower spikes was the winner for Trevor Yee.

In the seedling section Fay and Mal Ferguson won the prize for seedling of the month with a plant of *Cym.* Ruby Valley (Valley Regent 'Reggae' x Ruby Eyes 'Red Baron'4N) of this renowned grex from a remake by Battack Orchids. The plant shown had two tall upright inflorescences with 20 and 18 flower of shapely deep pink intermediate flowers well clear of the foliage. Other plants of merit in the seedling classes were the large flower seedling, a deep pink *Cym.* (Yowie Rose 'Vulcan' x Lunakira 'Gleam') shown by Louis Friess, the small standard *Cym.* (Lunara 'Gold Star' x Red Beauty) a nice pale orange exhibited by Ian Drury and the miniature seedling, a pale green flower *Cym.* (Intuition x Sarah Jean) shown by Helen and John Palmer.

In the cut flower section the nice bright orange stem of *Cym.* (Royal Fare 'Krista' x Yowie Pepper 'Genghis') won the best stem in the large standard class for Trevor Hughes. The champion cut stem and small standard class was won by George Serhan with a nice stem of the *Cym.* Spicy Khan 'Apricot' and George also won the intermediate cut stem with a very shapely pure colour yellow flowered *Cym.* (One Tree Hill x Pharaoh's





Cymbidium Ruth Curran 'TOM'

Gold), the miniature cut stem was won by Helen and John Palmer with *Cym.* Summer Gem 'John Charles'. There were some lovely blooms presented at the meeting, these classes are proving to be very popular with the members as it allows them to show off some of the seedling or mericlones that are flowering for the first time on plants that are small and not mature enough for the show bench and seedling plant classes, also mature plants that are not in show condition can have a bloom removed for these classes.

The winner of the champion single bloom and large flower class was the deep pink bloom of *Cym.* Wyong Flame 'Dural' winning over a paler pink bloom of *Cym.* Lunar Blaze, both shown by G. Le Marne; these hybrids are recent registered crosses from Gordon Giles of Keith Wallace Pty Ltd and is breeding some of the worlds most outstanding standard *Cymbidium* orchids, particularly in red and pink colours (and his golds aren't too bad). The small standard bloom class was won by Trevor Hughes with a yellow *Cym.* (Margaret Thatcher x Vibrant Bliss) cross, George Kovacs won the intermediate bloom class with a very deep pink to red bloom of *Cym.* (Alexandra's Flame x Red Khan), this is from a crossing of two standard parents and I will be interested to see if it will bloom as an intermediate in future years. The miniature class for single bloom was won by Trevor Yee with a bloom of the off-white *Cym.* Artistic Impression 'Snow Drop'.

The club president Geoff Le Marne acknowledged all the place winners and made presentations to the prizewinners.



Above: *Cymbidium* Wyong Flame 'Dural'

Right: *Cymbidium* Margaret Thatcher 'Perfection'

Following the presentations, the business of drawing of the raffle of quality seedling cymbidiums and at the conclusion of business the meeting was closed. Members quickly removed blooms and plants from the tables, stacked the furniture away, cleaned up the hall then made a quick exit for the sometimes long journey home. Now when's the next show?

Terry Davis
Constitution Hill, NSW
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Editor's Report

This issue includes reports on two major cymbidium shows of the 2008 season, the National Cymbidium Show, staged in South Australia and the Cymbidium Club of Western Australia's Winter Show. In both cases some beautiful and outstanding flowers feature among the reports, many of them are Australian bred cymbidiums, highlighting the quality of hybridising in this country. Our thanks to Carolin Allen and Carl Slusarczyk for these reports. While on the subject of National Cymbidium Shows, we have some early news on the 2009 and 2010 shows to be staged in Melbourne and Perth respectively. In both cases this is exciting news, with the 2009 show being the first National Cymbidium Show to be staged in the Victorian capital and the 2010 show being the first ever National Cymbidium Show to be staged in Western Australia.

Carolin Allen also brings us two short features, one concerning perhaps the youngest cymbidium enthusiasts and growers ever heard of. The other outlines the innovative spike training method Andy and Jan Leamon use for multi-spiked cymbidium plants.

Rob Smith poses some ideas which will hopefully promote thought and possibly discussion among various cymbidium judging panels. He asks if it is time for a major change to the way we judge cymbidiums.

An article which appeared in the last issue of the *AOR* has drawn a range of views in feedback from various cymbidium growers. The article concerned was the one by Julian Coker referring to ethics. While all who contacted us agreed that the practice, however rare, of re mericloning unflowered and unproven mericone tissue is indefensible, they felt that the re mericloning of flowered and proven mericlones is acceptable, believing that once a plant is bought, free of restrictions as to its use, then the new owner can do as he or she wishes with it. Many argued that the original hybridiser would have made his financial return from the plant and moved on to a newer variety or hybrid long before a subsequent owner re mericlined the plant and had his stock grown on to saleable size, so the originator would be losing little or nothing anyway. Some pointed out that there are other practices which could be considered unethical, but which affected the orchid buyer not the seller and sighted such things as the misrepresentation of plants on internet auction sites and the practice of dividing plants in flower for sale to the public when such plants were unlikely to survive in the hands of relatively inexperienced growers. Some saw such practices as detrimental to the promotion of orchid growing and a possible discouragement to potential future members of our rewarding hobby. The issue of ethical behaviour when it comes to commercial orchid trading is clearly one which stirs a variety of responses and any unethical practices should be taken seriously, they are a blight on our hobby and do damage to the vast majority of hybridisers and nursery persons who trade ethically and fairly.

Good health and good growing. ■

Your editors

Editors



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For further details contact
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Some thoughts on the 2008 COCWA Winter Show

Text and photographs by Carl Slusarczyk

Not surprisingly our 2008 Winter show adopted a Chinese Olympics theme. However after our very successful 2007 show it might as well have been "When you're on a good thing, stick to it." which we did. Once again shopping centre displays, articles in community newspapers and even radio station advertisements were used to promote our show and a happy band of workers gave willingly of themselves to ensure its success. Unfortunately the weather was not so kind this year as a cold and wet winter conspired to slightly reduce plant numbers. Nevertheless there were plenty of interesting things to see for those who were interested and hot dogs to eat for those who weren't.

A small club with a big schedule means almost everyone gets a prize. We all end up happy and as there is no gold or even silver at stake we don't seem to mind much who gets the medals. What we create is fun and friendship through a mutual love of our favourite flowers. Confucius said that being in the company of good people it is like entering a room full of orchids. So once again visitors to our show certainly received value for money.



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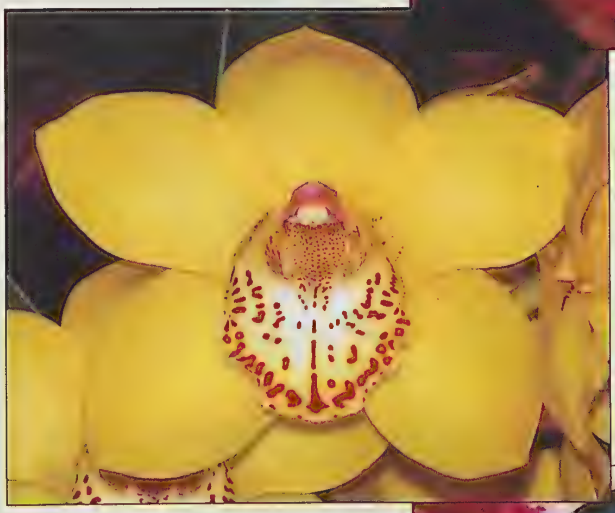
***Cym.* Wyong Rouge 'Charlotte's Pride'**

This *Cym.* (Sylvan Star x Terama) cultivar was purchased by Ray Maisey as a first flowering seedling at Schaefer's Orchids. His partner Charlotte fell in love with it which proves once again that she is a woman of excellent taste. The value of *Cym.* Sylvan Star has been recognised by a number of hybridisers with Mukoyama Orchids of Japan in particular having currently registered twenty two grexes from it and many more in subsequent generations. The Wondabah Orchids 1971 registered *Cym.* Terama is even older than *Cym.* Red Beauty but has also been highly successful in breeding with both diploid and tetraploid cultivars in existence. It has produced the 2001 National Show winner in *Cym.* Coco Jim 'Starquest' as well as the perennially popular *Cym.* Wallamurra 'Jupiter' which in 1981 received the first Award of Merit to a red in Australia.



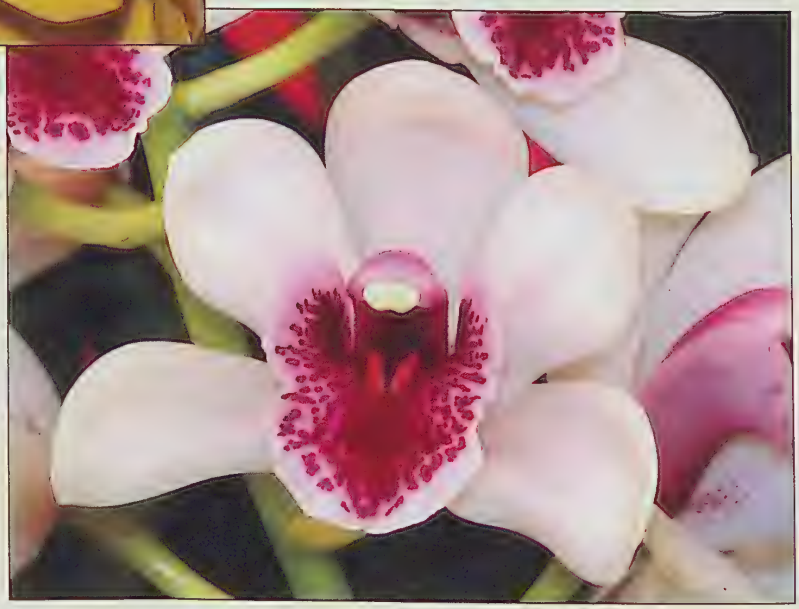
***Cym.* (Pink Paradise Rose x Red Beauty)**

This Kimberley Orchids bred seedling was exhibited by Ian and Rose Gilmore and in the spirit of "One World, One Dream" combines genes from north and south of the equator. Not all new genes however as *Cym.* Red Beauty was registered in 1979. It should however be considered a more modern parental line as the later availability of the converted tetraploids greatly enhanced its worth. This seedling was from 'Rembrant' which established its reputation as a breeder with the 1992 AM/RHS award to the Eric Young Orchid Foundation's *Cym.* Maufant 'Jersey' with its 15cm width pink flowers being described as faultless and narrowly missing an FCC.



***Cym.* (Vibrant Bliss x Lofty Glow) 'Gold Plate'**

The depth of colour of this Bryant's Orchids bred cultivar exhibited by Ezi-Gro Orchids was impressive. It further illustrates the importance of the *Cym.* Coraki grex in the production of modern yellows and in particular 'Margaret' in its converted tetraploid form. How fortunate that 'Margaret' was also found to be a pure colour carrier. The descriptively named *Cym.* Vibrant Bliss 'Sunpure's progeny have already been awarded so perhaps it is another gateway to gold.



***Cym.* (Magic Elf x Mem. Andrew Johnston) 'Grace'**

This seedling did not make it past the heats. However, like Eric the Eel, you do not have to be the best to be noteworthy and this flower's labellum was stunning. When looking at a cymbidium it is interesting to consider which of its species ancestors have contributed the most dominant features. Pedigrees can be obtained from the Royal Horticultural Society cymbidium grex web-page or more simply from the excellent Santa Barbara Orchid Estate "cymbidulator" web-page. See if you can work out where the labellum of 'Grace' came from.

***Cym.* Flaming Pepper 'Frank'**

This Ezi-Gro owned *Cym.* (Khan Flame x Yowie Pepper) small standard was bred by Bryant's Orchids. It is interesting that even the *Cym.* Khan Flames, which are noted for bringing large size and vigour into the dark colour lines, will occasionally produce these small standards. Partly for this reason some, with tongue in cheek, deride the Small Standard class as no more than an excuse for growing runts and losers. However when you see a good raceme of well conformed flowers such as 'Frank', or the attractive colours of 'Cookie', you know that the joke is on them. A discussion can still be had as to what the standard of perfection in this class, as with the others, should be. A sub-topic could be raised by the fact that three different plants of the 2004 National Show winning intermediate *Cym.* Valley Olympic 'Pink Perfection' were shown in each of the Intermediate, Small Standard and Standard classes of this year's show. Should the ruler rule?



***Cym.* One Tree Hill 'Solstice Gold'**

Our Treasurer John Oliver and his wife Dierdre exhibited this whopper. When you see a plant as big as this you sometimes do not know whether to congratulate the owner on such a magnificent specimen or to chide him on his laziness in not splitting it up. Fortunately in this case the decision was easy because it received a Certificate of Excellence for its impressive floral display and a sea of leaves green to their tips. That the flowers were also green on a plant named as gold invites the question as to whether this is due to climatic or cultural factors or due to subtle changes induced by meristem cloning. With some of these green-yellow types it would be possible, by shading every second bud and flower and exposing the rest to strong light, to obtain yellow and green flowers on the same raceme. In an Olympic year especially, these green and gold Australian sporting colours might look very striking, but good grief, why on Earth would you bother?



***Cym.* Sylvan Star 'Tia'.**

Sylvan Star is a signature Bryant's Orchids grex and this cultivar arises from a sibling cross. I doubt that there is any prettier girl than 'Tia' dressed up in her pink party frock. Like a lot of lovely girls she has turned out to be a great mum and is widely distributed through the miracle of meristem propagation.





***Cym.* Gentle Touch 'Anne Shirley'**

Cym. Gentle Touch was created by the Lenkic brothers and 'Anne Shirley' was exhibited by Club President Courtney Rogasch. The plant was named by Nado Lenkic after Anne of Green Gables. Perhaps the speckled and dotted labellum reminded him of her long braided red hair and freckles. Whatever the truth of that a smaller growth habit and purer colour make her more deserving of the Gentle Touch name than her more robust sibling 'Bon Bon' which has won many major prizes including Reserve Champion at this year's Santa Barbara International Orchid Show. As 'Anne Shirley' flowers earlier in the season than 'Bon Bon' they complement each other well. With both a boy and a girl they will need separate rooms, so why not build another shade house.

***Cym.* Gateway to Gold 'Cookie'**

How appropriate that two cultivars of this *Cym.* (Coratea x Sporting Life) grex were found in our Olympics themed display. They were bred by Andrew Easton and exhibited by Ezi-Gro Orchids. A number have flowered in W.A. and have either been smooth toned pure colour yellows or non pure colours in interesting shades of orangey-biscuit like the aptly named small standard 'Cookie'. They have all inherited characteristics of the large banded labellum of *Cym.* Coratea 'Rewa' and the cross also illustrates that 'Rewa' carries pure colour genes derived from its Wondabah Orchids registered *Cym.* Coraki parent. Whether this grex will truly lead on to gold remains to be seen. However as our Olympic hosts have observed, "The longest journey begins with a single step". Such, apparently, is the lot of the true hybridist.







***Cym.* Darch Dots 'Orange Polka'**

Kevin Butler's success with these colourful *Cym.* (Hot 'n' Spicy x Pywacket) diploids continues. Last year we saw the cultivars 'Nuts and Bolts' and 'Screws'. This year 'Washers', 'Orange Polka', 'Problem Child', and 'Hammer' made an appearance. They are rather similar to Royale Orchids' *Cym.* Death Wish cultivars, which is not surprising given their very similar family trees. It might be suggested that you would indeed need a death wish to persevere with diploid lines in an era dominated by the tetraploids but regardless of which side of the continent they come from these flowers are quite special. Fortunately there is a champion for the novelty types and this time 'Orange Polka' was the winner, leading the others a merry dance.

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***Cym.* Khan Flame 'Hot Cocoa'**

Three different mericloned brown Khan Flames were seen at the show and all were impressive. 'Hot Cocoa' originated from Keith Wallace Pty Ltd, and was exhibited by Ian and Rose Gilmore. Unfortunately flash photography can be rather unkind as the true colour of these smooth brown flowers with their heavily red marked labellums was outstanding. However colour isn't everything and the better credentialed *Cym.* Khan Flame 'Tuscany' will always beat it in the All Round competition. The Gilmores don't mind because that was their plant as well.

***Cym.* O'Beaston 'Keith's Surprise'**

The *Cym.* (Khan Flame x Last Tango) grex originates from Bryant's Orchids and has a big reputation as the best cultivars have the rotund form which is so highly prized by exhibitors in their flowers if not themselves. The excellent colour came from both parents and combines the chocolate brown with scarlet labellum of 'Odjam' with the very dark 'Geyserland' with its near black labellum. This three raceme plant was the recipient of a quality award and the Champion Seedling and Grand Champion prizes for Keith and Judy Podger.



***Cym.* (Hot 'n' Spicy x Pink Champagne) 'F 122'**

Kevin Butler must have been looking for more form and substance when he mated his diploid *Cym.* Hot 'n' Spicy 'Galaxy' to the tetraploid *Cym.* Pink Champagne 'Featherhill'. If so then he has succeeded, but alas this will likely be the end of the road as all the progeny should be infertile triploids. As with most things, fashions in cymbidiums change and these spotted and striped flowers, as well as the pelorics, are currently quite popular with many growers. Possibly this surge in popularity mirrors that of the current interest in piercings and tattoos. One of the joys of breeding and flowering seedlings that is seldom mentioned is the opportunity to name them. Old Stewart's Orchids catalogues for instance, include enticing names such as *Cym.* Yankee Whaler 'Moby Dick' and *Cym.* Silent Night 'Angel's Breath'. Maybe a heavily adorned blonde cultivar such as this could be named *Cym.* Pulp Fiction 'Jody'.



Now that our show has finished it is our hope that we have honoured the slogan "Light the Passion, Share the Dream". Who needs to wait another four years? Not me. Same time next year!

Carl Slusarczyk
6 Regent Street West
Mount Lawley Western Australia



Cym. [(Hove x Red Valley) x Luna Flame]

2008 Fleurijn Orchids-Holland ACS National Cymbidium Show – a Victorian view

Photographs Terry Poulton – text Carolin Allen

The 2008 National Cymbidium show was held in Norlunga South Australia. It was our turn to make the trip interstate this year. So on Tuesday August 19, 2008 we loaded up the van ready to leave for SA on the Wednesday morning. We had a passenger coming with us on this trip our friend John Hedger a long standing member of the COSV committee. We were running a bit late as we had some last minute delays and did not get to his place until about 11.00am. Some Victorians took 2 days to do the trip and the rest did the trip in the one day eventually all meeting up at Mick O'Sheas Hotel situated in Norlunga South Australia.

The show venue was to be the Sports Community Centre in Norlunga. Norlunga is approximately 40 minutes south of Adelaide on the edge of the McLaren vale; it is situated at end of the railway line from Adelaide and across from a large Centro Shopping Centre.

The set up of the show was Friday morning. When we arrived the venue was a hive of activity with vans, trailers and cars coming and going with exhibitors bringing in their plants for staging.

The floor of the hall was marked out with class numbers as in South Australia the judging of the plants is done on the floor before the display stands are built. This method of presenting plants for judging has its advantages and disadvantages, while plants can be more easily viewed in some cases, pendulous miniatures in particular can be very hard to see properly.

All the judges were called together at about 10.30am. The judging groups were

Cym. Lunar Blaze 'Kirwan'

Cym. Tempelstowes Charm 'Mary'



organised and then sent off to determine the best in each class. After the class judging the groups come together to pick the Champions. All the groups then come together to choose the major winners, this finishing around 1.00pm. After lunch award judging took place and then all plants were release to the exhibitors. Once the plants are released by the registrars, building of the individual show displays commenced, with all displays finished by 6.00pm.

We were involved with the building of the COSV display and then waited until around 6pm to do the stand judging.

It had been a very long and tiring day with everyone on their feet all this time, those left until the end of judging complained of sore feet.

The show was again very kind to the Victorian exhibitors, at the end of the day a number of them taking out major prizes.

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia put on an outstanding show dinner held at the South Adelaide Football Club on the Saturday night, with the camaraderie and good humour which are hallmarks of national cymbidium shows continuing throughout a most enjoyable evening.

As in most of the shows that we are involved with the pull down of the show happens very quickly. It took only about 30 minutes on Sunday to pull down the displays and we were all on our way along

Cym. Flaming Vulcan 'Tee Pee'

the highway by 5.00pm heading for home. We had a short break for tea at Tailem Bend pulling in at Border Town for the night.

It was good to catch up with our Cymbidium friends who we have not seen for quite a long time, we are all getting older and for some tripping around is becoming harder each year.

As the sun set over the SA outback we said goodbye to South Australia and we were very happy to see the skyline of Melbourne with home soon in site.

Thank you to the Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia for making us all welcome and arranging a great weekend.

The major winners of the show were:-

Plants:-

Champion Plant in Show - Golden Embers 'Golden Tee Pee', exhibitor Terry Poulton

Champion Large Flower – Lunar Blaze 'Kirwan', exhibitor Colin & Noelle Cleak

Champion Small Standard – Embers 'Golden Tee Pee', exhibitor Terry Poulton

Champion Intermediate – Templestowes Charm 'Mary', exhibitor Andy Tran

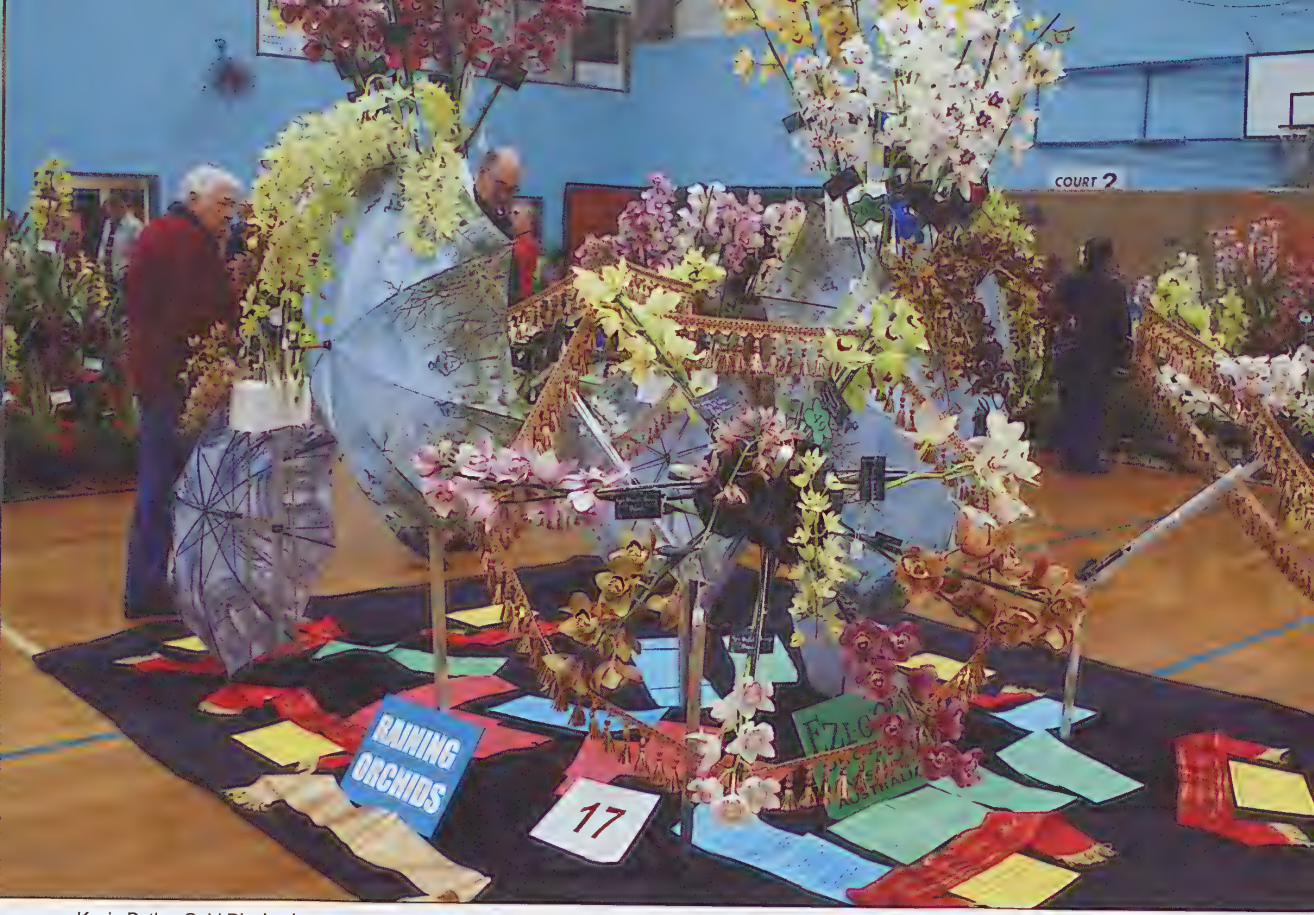
Champion Miniature – Peggy Foo 'Sim', exhibitor Moss & Rosemary Bray

Champion Specimen – Spring Surf x Silvan Star 'Tidy', exhibitor Colin & Karen Gillespie

Champion Novelty – Red Beauty x

Cym. (Janis Lin x Solana Beach)





Kevin Butler, Gold Display Incorporating a Theme

Gold Display Non Theme, C. Gillespie & C. Cleak





COCWA Display, John Mata Trophy Winner

OSV Display





A group of *Cym.* (Kelly's Winter x Yowie Pepper)

COCSA Display





Cym. (Valley Oracle x Valley Zenith) winner of the Dean Roesler Memorial Trophy for Vic Haskard



Cym. Kimberley Pass

Display by R Brady, A Beck and B&S Brand

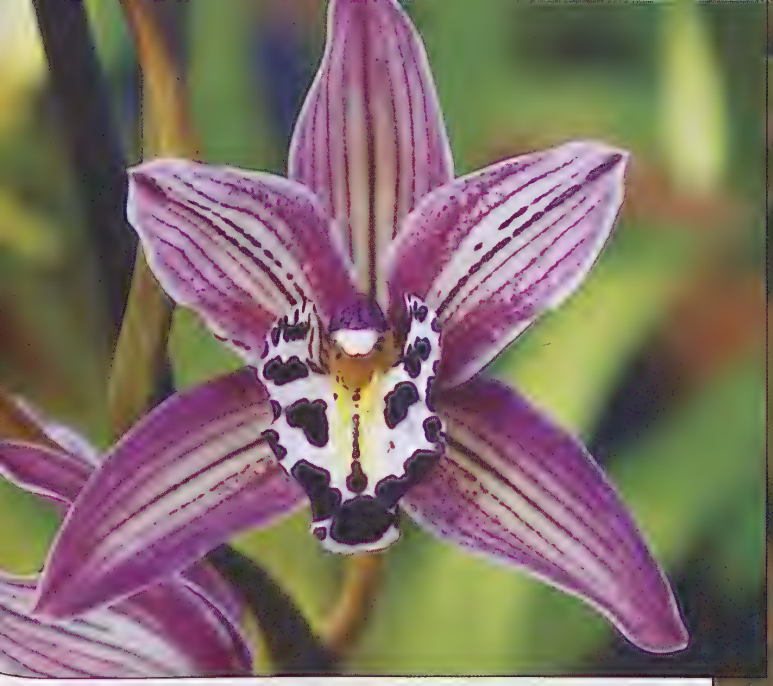




Cym. (Spring Surf x Silvan Star) 'Tidy'

Cym. Golden Embers 'Golden Tee Pee' – Champion Plant in Show





Cym. (Rincon x Cocktail)



Cym. Valley Champion 'Gorgeous'

Atlantic Crossing, exhibitor Vic Haskard
Champion Vintage – Fairy Rouge 'Lavender Falls', exhibitor Alan Beck
Champion Species – *Cym. erythraeum,* D. Reid

Cut Stems:-

Champion Cut Stem in Show – Valley Champion 'Gorgeous', exhibitor David Wain
Champion Large Flower – Conqueso x Lunakira, exhibitor David Wain
Champion Small Standard – Valley Champion 'Gorgeous', exhibitor David Wain
Champion Intermediate – Showoff x Winter Fire, exhibitor Ezi-Gro Orchids
Champion Miniature – Uncle Everett x *devonianum*, exhibitor Ezi-Gro Orchids
Champion Novelty – Darch Freak x Jack's Bean Stalk, exhibitor Ezi-Gro Orchids
Champion Seedling – (Christopher x Western Beauty) 'Hayden', exhibitor Ezi-Gro Orchids
Champion Vintage – Robin 'Super John', exhibitor Ezi-Gro Orchids
Champion species – *Cym sinense* exhibitor, Ezi-Gro Orchids

Champion Display of the Show –
C & K Gillespie and C & N Cleak

John Mata Trophy for Champion State Display
Cymbidium Orchid Club of Western Australia

Dean Roesler Trophy for most Eye Catching Cymbidium
Valley Oracle 'Kermit' x Valley Zenith 'Concord', Vic Haskard

Leon & Wim van Rijn Award
1st – Kalahari Pepper 'Barbara', exhibitor Colin & Karen Gillespie
2nd – Alexander x Tracy Reddaway, exhibitor Moss & Rosemary Bray
3rd – Valley Blush x Fred Stewart, exhibitor Geoff and Lucy Spear

(Reports on other aspects of this weekend will appear at a later date in the *AOR*.)

The next FLEURIJN ORCHIDS-HOLLAND NATIONAL CYMBIDIUM SHOW will be in Melbourne at the Springvale Town hall, Springvale, on the 5th and 6th September 2009.

We hope to see you there for what should be another amazing cymbidium event!

Carolin Allen
18 Wooten Cres.
Langwarrin Vic. 3910

Cymbidium Award Judging – time for a new approach?

by Rob Smith

Since its inception the Australian Cymbidium Society and its member state clubs have tried to develop a system of judging cymbidiums for award which acknowledged the past while attempting to respond to modern cymbidium development and expanding diversity within cymbidium hybridising. Whether those attempts have been successful probably depends on your point of view and whether you felt that traditional judging values in Australia needed to be changed in the first place.

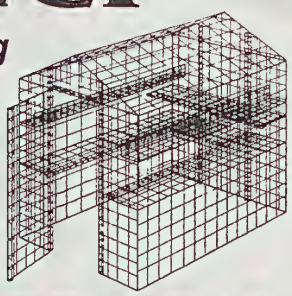
While upsetting or insulting people is not the intention of these observations, it is probably at this point that I'll achieve just that very thing, but here goes. The next couple of paragraphs are something of a subjective and very brief history of the development of cymbidium clubs and judging, but bare with me we will soon get to the point of this article.

As I understand it, a large part of the reason for the creation of specialist cymbidium clubs and following that, the national body, was because of a level of dissatisfaction with the treatment of cymbidiums by some general orchid clubs and state bodies, particularly in South Australia and Victoria. The perception of a number of people at the time was that many in the general orchid community gave little consideration to cymbidiums and that it became very hard to get any recognition for good quality cymbidiums of any type. Given that Australian hybridisers have been responsible for the production of a good percentage the best cymbidium hybrids, particularly in the standard/large flower size range, over the past several decades, this lack of recognition seemed to be somewhat unfair. Perhaps it was an issue of fashion, or perhaps it was due to the mass production of cymbidiums thanks to mericloning, which made them "common", or was it that they were perceived as easy to grow because in most areas they did not require an expensive glass house and therefore couldn't be compared to the "real" orchids? Whatever the reason, the people who took the first steps to establish specialist cymbidium clubs, also saw a need to develop judging guidelines which they felt would better recognise and reward cymbidiums. To their credit this did not lead to gluts of sub standard cymbidiums being granted awards, or high awards being given to plants which did not deserve them. Certainly, numerous cymbidiums have been awarded by cymbidium clubs over the last fifteen or so years, but FCC's have not been thrown around like confetti, as some people who derided the establishment of cymbidium clubs had predicted.

Cymbidium clubs began to develop their own judging values and standards and develop their own training programs for judges, a process which has been ongoing over more than a decade. Developments in cymbidium hybridising also began to pick up pace in those years,

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both here in Australia and around the world and as a result cymbidium clubs have attempted to keep their judging handbooks as living and changing documents to reflect the changes taking place. Despite the attempts to keep pace with hybridising, (and improvements in cymbidium culture) there are some who think that it may be time for a more radical approach to the judging of cymbidiums, particularly in regard to award judging. That idea is what this article is really about.

To some degree, all orchid judging systems are based on a philosophy of recognition of quality of flower form. While most orchid species do not produce flowers which are round in outline, nor particularly broad in their floral segments, we humans decided that this is what hybridising should turn them into. (A perverse lot aren't we?) While there is or should be a lot more to determining what makes a "good" cymbidium according to most judging systems, we have become rather fixated on the subject of flower form. This fixation has reached the point where to some judges flower form is the predominate feature they focus on, with other features such as colour, spike habit, floriferousness etcetera, running a long way behind in their consideration. Whatever your or my personal opinion on the importance of flower form might be, it is plain that to the majority of people, judges and judging philosophies, flower form is very important. It could be argued that we have all been conditioned to see it this way, but regardless of the reasons, or their validity, this is the world we live in when it comes to orchid judging.

One of the problems for cymbidium clubs, where a progressive approach to the recognition of all cymbidium types is favoured, is that try as we might we keep coming back to judges reacting to their conditioning, or personal preferences, for filled in round flowers above all other features. It's true that development in flower form has traditionally been an important factor and will certainly remain so, but does this focus on form hinder us when it comes to making a balanced assessment of the whole flowering plant? After all the points available for flower form is roughly around 20% when judging intermediates and miniatures and about 30% when judging large flower types, if the ACS judging handbook is used as a guide. Roughly the same percentages are available for colour, floriferousness and balance between floral display and plant, though it is doubtful if many judges would rate any of these features as being equal in importance compared to flower form.

Perhaps it is time for a completely new look at how we judge cymbidiums? Should we accept that whatever the reasons for it, a preoccupation with flower form will remain and what we need to do is to look towards a system which recognises this fact, but allows the development of a new set of judging criteria that provides recognition for plants where the other desirable traits mentioned predominate?

Should we develop a parallel series of awards for plants where floriferousness, colour, balance of plant and floral display, etcetera, are given greater importance, while retaining a more traditional judging criteria for recognition of the flower as the predominant feature?

In other words judge flowering plants on one hand and flower and spike on the other.

Keep the traditional values of flower form, size, (where appropriate) colour, special arrangement, spike habit and flower count and focus on those features without reference to the size of plant carrying the flower spike(s). Perhaps these awards could be titled "Award for Flower and Inflorescence"?

Establish a parallel range of awards, but

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where the emphasis would be directed towards an overall assessment and appreciation of the flowers, spike habit, floriferousness and balance between plant and floral display. Perhaps called "Award for Flowering Plant"?

This award class should not be confused with an award class for pot plants, but rather could be seen as a way of recognising and rewarding above average cymbidiums, but where the sophistication of flower form may not be sufficient to gain an award for flower and inflorescence. There may well be plants which could be eligible for awards in both categories, where superior flower form may be combined with outstanding floriferousness and balance between plant and flowers.

I am sure than most cymbidium judges would agree that there isn't a flowering season goes by without comments being made concerning award decisions, or show judging decisions, usually along the lines of "great flower shape, but a bit low on flower count/poor spike habit/crowded flowers", or some similar criticism in relation to large flower show types. Or perhaps, "beautifully grown and presented with good spike habit and flower arrangement, but the judges wouldn't give it an award because it didn't have good enough flower form". (This often happens with intermediates, miniatures, or novelty types of any size.) Some judges believe that it may be unreasonable to expect the sophistication of flower form in a hybrid which perhaps has a species only a few generations back in its family tree, compared to a large flower show bench type which has the benefit of ten or twelve generations of hybridising development behind it. Other judges believe that such considerations should not come into it when assessing a cymbidium for award.

If we can't divorce ourselves from the concentration on flower form above all else, even when our judging guidelines tell us that we should, then perhaps the only option is to consider a major overhaul of our judging system? If the aims of our cymbidium clubs are to promote, reward and better recognise cymbidiums in all their forms, then perhaps we need to assess if we are currently achieving our aims when it comes to cymbidium judging? ■

Rob Smith,
aussiecyms@internode.on.net

Our Future

While chatting with a group of friends at the 2008 Melbourne Spectacular which was held at Collectors Corner-Garden World, these two little cuties caught our attention shopping for new plants to add to their collection. They were browsing amongst the many cymbidiums plants that were for sale.

Talking to their father, Isabel four years old and two year Maddisan do have their own small orchid house and already have a collection of cymbidiums.

Are these young ladies our orchid growers of the future? We need to encourage families like these to take up our hobby. Perhaps we could coin a new catch phrase to promote growing cymbidiums? "A family that grow cymbidiums together, stays together." ■

Carolin Allen, 18 Wooten Crescent, Langwarrin Vic. 3910



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A unique way of staking

by Carolin Allen

While David and I were at the Andy and Jan Leamon's nursery choosing some plants for the COSV display stands at the OSCOV & National Cymbidium Show, I noticed a group of plants with ONE stake coming out of the middle of some of the pots. All of these stakes had a number of elastics coming out of the top of each stake and these were attached to each spike on the plant. The large number of elastic strings formed a cone around the plant. The plants were too awkward to take to any show so Jan was picking the stems for sale to some of her florist customers. They could not fit the required number of stakes needed to pull the many flower spikes up into the pot, so Andy, having been an engineer in a past life, thought of this method to support the spikes. Orchid growers are an inventive lot and are always coming up with ideas to solve their problems.

David and I help set up COSV displays at the OSCOV Show and the National Cymbidium Show, Andy and Jan always let us select plants from out of their play area (their private collec-



Above: Andy's staking method with spikes all round the plant.

Left: Close up of the hooks used to attach to each spike.

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The method works just as well when the spikes are all to one side.

tion) for plants needed for these two shows. We thank them for their support at this time of the year, as all commercial cymbidium growers know, the cymbidium show season coincides with the busiest period at their nurseries. ■

Carolin Allen



Editorial contributions are welcomed by the

Australian Orchid Review

Please ensure that any slides, photographs and electronic files are clearly identified with the author's name and contact details

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Email: **davidpbanks@veritel.com.au**
or: **mark.husk@geongroup.com**

AOR 065

Yarra Valley OS 24th annual show

The Yarra Valley Orchid Society will be holding its 24th annual show on the weekend of 18-19 October, 2008.

The show promises wonderful displays of many species of orchids, including the very popular cymbidiums and native varieties, mini display boards, plant sales, potting demonstrations and a raffle. Also available will be advice and useful tips on orchid growing for beginners and experts alike. Afternoon teas and light lunches available.

For any further information you should contact Angela Bonfadini on 03 5964 3396. ■

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November 1-2 ANOS Geelong Group Annual Show 2008 – Geelong Vic

November 8-9 Sarcochilus Festival of Victoria – Maribyrnong Vic

December 7 Hills District Orchids Summer Open Day – Northmead NSW

2009

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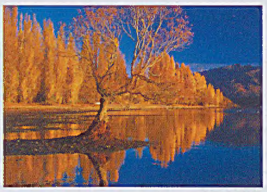




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